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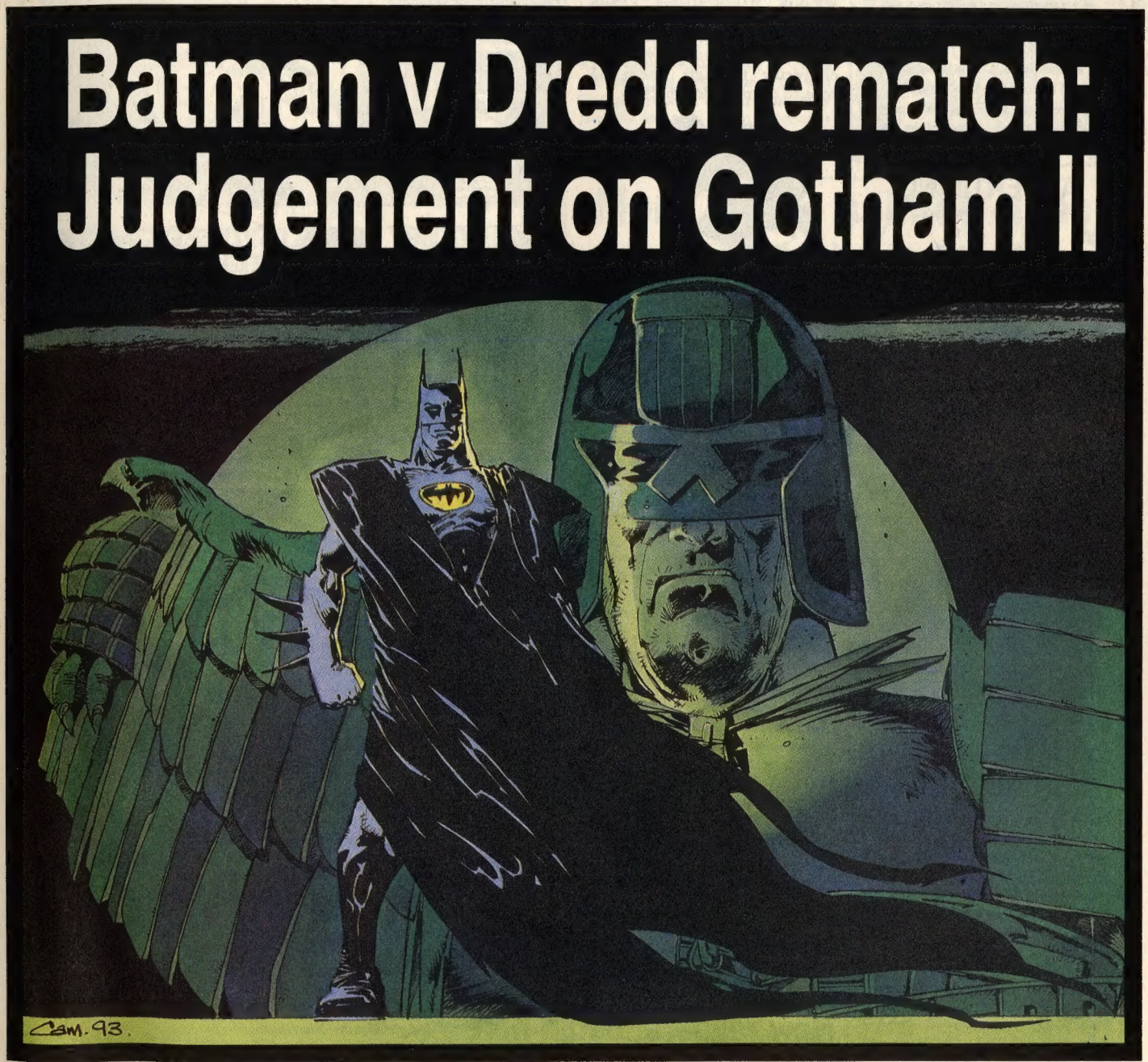
comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 32 June 1993 | The Comics Industry Monthly | 72 pages 50p / $1.50

Batman v Dredd rematch: Judgement on Gotham II



IN THE wake of the success of Fleetway and DC Comics' co-production of the award-winning Judge Dredd and Batman graphic novel, *Judgement on Gotham*, two sequels are being produced.

With Dredd now set to be played by Sylvester Stallone in the forthcoming movie, and DC having acquired the license to publish new American comics featuring the character, a rematch between the ultimate lawman and the ultimate vigilante was inevitable.

Lobo artist Cam Kennedy will draw the Grant & Wagner script for the 48 page November-shipping sequel, while Glen Fabry has already been assigned to illustrate **Judgement on Gotham III** for early 1994 release.

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NEWS
·AMERICA·

Miller returns to Marvel roots

THE currently popular trend among creators is to quit working on Marvel-owned characters in favour of producing often derivative versions for smaller creator-controlled independents.

But one of the industry's leading writer-artists Frank Miller could be turning the tide with his return to Marvel's **Daredevil**, a company-owned character through whom he rose to prominence in 1979.

Together with artist John Romita Jr, Miller is producing a 5-issue series ($2.95, 32 pages, glossy stock, launching August with embossed card covers) which reintroduces Stick and Elektra as it delves into the character's origin.

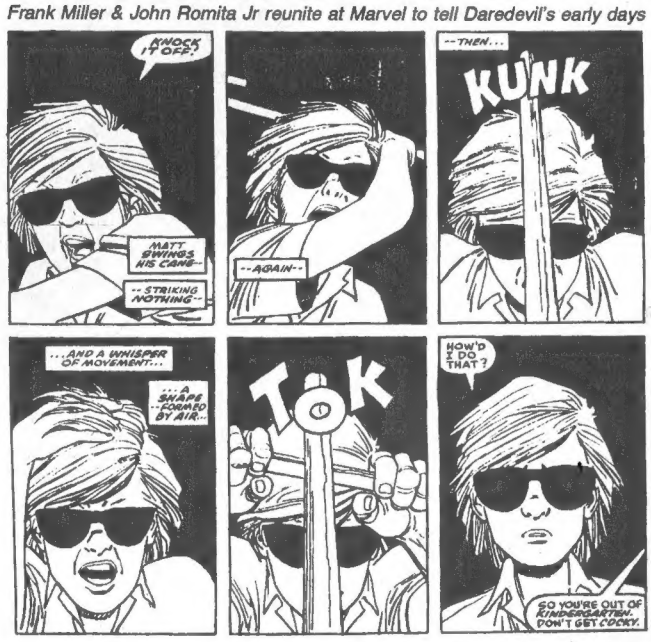
Miller's first run as artist and then writer-artist lasted 34 issues (#158-191) during which he introduced Daredevil's mentor, Stick, and his love-hate nemesis Elektra.

But it was in 1986 that Miller achieved public prominence by moving comics into the mass market on DC's ground-breaking **Dark Knight Returns** mini-series and graphic novel reprint.

For the last few years, Miller has worked on diverse properties including such creator-owned titles as **Give Me Liberty** and **Sin City**.

WEEKS LATER...
WATT LISTENS TO A PAIR OF ALLEY CATS TRADING INSULTS SIX BLOCKS AWAY.
HE FOLLOWS A LOVERS' QUARREL IN A CROWDED RESTAURANT, ISOLATING THE VOICES, NOT MISSING A WORD.
BUT NONE OF THIS DROWNS OUT THE VOICES BEHIND HIM...
...A TRAGEDY, MR. MURDOCK. YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES. BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT OUR CORPORATION CONSIDERS ITSELF IN NO WAY ACCOUNTABLE.
IT WAS YOUR YUPPIE THAT HIT MY BOY, SHYSTER!
LET'S TALK STRAIGHT, MURDOCK.

Frank Miller & John Romita Jr reunite at Marvel to tell Daredevil's early days



New readers: begin here

Comics International *is a monthly industry trade newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items.*

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular newsstand outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. In our news section, these comics are noted. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialist shops in Britain is given in our Retail Index.

Shipping dates *mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to newsstand on sale dates or titles.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

American dollar prices *are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 80p = $1.*

For full details concerning advertisers displaying the ***CoBRA Mail Order Protection*** *symbol, see page 70.*

Image crossovers and team-ups

JULY looks set to be the month of the co-star at Image Comics. The company has obviously learned marketing techniques from Marvel, as it features no less than six team-ups across its line-up, which now consists of fifteen titles.

Brigade #0 (Liefeld, Stephenson & Matsuda; $1.95) bridges the gap between **Youngblood #0** and last year's **Brigade** mini-series. It also features a guest appearance by Emp, from Jim Lee's **WildC.A.T.S.**

Union #2 (Heisler & Texiera; $1.95) features a "brief and totally gratuitous" cameo by **Cyberforce**'s Velocity.

Keith Giffen, who takes over plotting for Rob Liefeld with the July-shipping **Bloodstrike #4**, has his own **Trencher** feature in a *battle of the receding hairlines* in issue three ($1.95) as Gideon clashes with Rob Liefeld's **Supreme**.

Image leader **Spawn** will soon be guesting in Neal Adams' **Valeria the She Bat** (see page 4 this issue) as well as teaming up with **Batman** in the first Image-DC cross-over.

As first revealed in **Comics International 25** (October, 1992) Grant Morrison will take over scripting **Spawn** for two to three issues (though Image has yet to confirm if George Perez will handle the art) while Todd McFarlane handles the Dark Knight-Hellspawn *battle of the capes*.

Bart Sears has been lured away from DC and Valiant (last seen on **Turok #1-3**) to draw Alan Moore's **Spawn** spin-off as *Violator* stars in his own three issue mini.

On the Erik Larsen front, what appeared to be only a joke poster has turned into a reality as Mirage's **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** take on **Savage Dragon** in the 48 page $2.95 July issue which also features a flip-cover story introducing new hero *Vanguard*.

The second part of the greenies' get-together is scheduled from Mirage in August.

But the biggest crossover events from Image for July are their two 48 page $4.95 Valiant cross-over **Deathmate** issues.

Jim Lee's Homage Studios handle **Deathmate Black** featuring (among others) *WildC.A.T.S, H.A.R.D.Corps, Turok* and *X-O*, while Rob Liefeld produces **Deathmate Red** in which Chapel and Gilad the Eternal Warrior join forces against Youngblood and Bloodshot.

Also shipping from Image in August will be two $4.95 22" x 34" colour posters featuring Valentino's **Shadowhawk** and a **Savage Dragon v Shadowhawk** battle scene by Valentino and Larsen.

Keeping the pressure on, Image adds four new titles in August; Silvestri & Peterson's **Strykeforce**, Larson & Giffen's **Superpatriot**, **Gen-X & WildC.A.T.S Yearbook** (by Jim Lee and Travis Charest) and Rob Liefeld's **Extreme**.

Realising a need to maintain regular schedules, Image has surprised the trade by releasing **Deathblow 1** early and now promises Marc Silvestri's new **Cyberforce** series will launch in September.

Turtles v Dragon in a 2-parter concluding in September's ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.***

Ranson gets look-in at DC

LONDON-based artist Arthur Ranson has drawn a two-part Alan Grant Batman story, *Tao*, for the August 17 & 31 shipping $1.75 **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #51-52.**

Best known for his tv strips in **Look-In** and more recently *Judge Anderson* and *Button Man* for Fleetway, Ranson brings his photo-realism to the Batman legend as a gang war in Gotham's Chinatown forces Batman to confront a mystically-trained martial arts assassin known as Dragon.

Both vigilantes are on the trail of criminal Johnny Kahn and both have met before, when a much younger Batman-in-training was Dragon's rival in the far East. Now the two are now set on a collision course for a duel to the death to settle their long-standing rivalry.

More movie spin-off titles from Dark Horse Comics

CONTINUING a tradition which first brought them to prominence, Dark Horse has a further range of licensed film spin-offs.

O **Creature from the Black Lagoon** is a $4.95 48 page squarebound colour one-shot shipping on August 24. '50s horror fan Art **(Longshot)** Adams illustrates the Steve **(Fish Police)** Monacuse adaptation.

O **Indiana Jones: Thunder in the Orient** is a six-part $2.50 series by comics veteran Dan Barry, set to launch on September 7.

O **RoboCop 3** unites **Punisher, Alien Legion** and **Justice League** contributors Steven Grant, Hoang Nguyen and Art Nichols unite in a 3-issue movie adaptation beginning with a July 20th shipping issue.

O **Dark Horse Comics** maintains its all-movie theme, with the continuing stories of *Godzilla, Aliens, Predator* and *James Bond* ($2.50, issue 11 shipping July 27).

O The mini-series **The Thing from Another World** and its sequel **Climate of Fear** are both collected into a 168 page $15.95 edition shipping on September 28.

...and a *King Kong* 16.5" vinyl figure (assembly required) by sculptor Randy Bowen is shipping in a John Bolton illustrated box on September 7th, priced $99.95.

IN BRIEF

Thunderstrike's twice

MARVEL appears to have suffered continuity problems with its latest **Thor** spin-off, **Thunderstrike**. While issue four has stated as a July shipping title, Marvel's August trade solicitations include issue *one* of the DeFalco, Frenz and Milgrom monthly. No explanation, simply the words "resolicited, all previous orders are cancelled".

Superman revealed

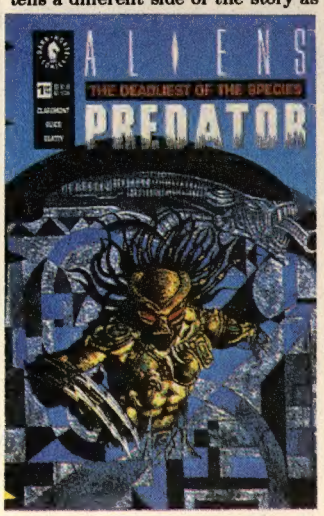
FOLLOWING the landmark publicity attached to the death and rebirth mystery storyline, the one true Superman is revealed in **Superman #82** and **Adventures of Superman #505**. Maximising on the impact, both books will have regular newsstand and enhanced cover direct sale editions.

The direct sale **Superman 82** features 32 pages without ads and a chromium cover ($3.50) while the $2.00 newsstand edition will be 40 pages with ads. Both ship on August 24. **Adventures 505** will be a regular 32 page title shipping August 31, but the direct sale edition will be $1 above the regular $1.50 tag because of its holographic foil cover.

Claremont at Dark Horse

DISPLACED keeper of Marvel mutants Chris Claremont returns to comics after a year's absence to write Dark Horse's 12-issue series, **Aliens/Predator: The Deadliest of the Species**.

Working with artists Jackson Guice and John Beatty, Claremont tells a different side of the story as



passengers in a sky-liner above the Alien-contaminated Earth have to face a female Predator.

The $2.50 series features cover art by John Bolton, with issue one shipping on July 13.

New DC crime trilogy

WHILE **Underworld** proved a poor seller for the company, DC once more returns to the world of cops and robbers, but this time with a $4.95 cover price.

Streets is a James Hudnell creation in the tradition of classic crime fiction, with each issue featuring a prestige format self-contained story by a different artist.

Suggested for mature readers, the trilogy introduces America to the fully-painted art of John Estes, Robert Ortaleza and, in issue three, Britain's John McCrea.

Streets #1 ships on August 24th.

Steel Harbor

FOLLOWING Golden City, month three of Dark Horse's 16 page $1.00 *Comics Greatest World* series introduces the inhabitants of Steel Harbor:

Barb Wire (with art by Paul Gulacy and Dan Davis, ships 10/8); **The Machine** (James O'Barr, 17/8, with cover art by Mike Mignola, pictured below); **Wolf Gang** (Chris Warner, 24/8) and **Motorhead** (Vince Giarrano, 31/8).

Chris Warner continues as writer for the entire series which concludes

with the four Vortex-set issues shipping in September.

C. S. Lewis at Marvel

IN cooperation with Thomas Nelson Publishers, Marvel is producing a 96-page trade paperback of Lewis's classic **The Screwtape Letters**.

Adapted by Charles E. Hall and artist Pat Redding, the $9.95 one-shot ships on August 3.

Marvel UK's Gene Pool

GENE Pool is a new 3-title line shipping in August. The 6-issue **Gun Runner** (by Abnett & Lanning plus newcomer artist Terry Clark) features the survivor of an intergalactic war and guest stars Ghost Rider and John Blaze. **Gene Dogs** is a 4-issue series by John Freeman and Dave Taylor, featuring a super-team ready to combat MyS-TECH villainy, while the 6-issue **Genetix** (by Lanning, Marks & Gascoigne) stars a group of break-aways from the MyS-TECH group.

Priced $2.75 each, all titles include 4 trading cards and wraparound covers.

*FOLLOWING on from Continuity's product relaunch through the 20-chapter "Deathwatch 2000" crossover, "The Rise of Magic" will begin in the July-shipping **Armor** and **Samuree** building up to a full line-cross over for the November titles. Between the two storylines, Neal Adams will be further boosting his company's profile with the July and August issues of **Valeria the She Bat** (#3 and 4) featuring a guest appearance by Todd McFarlane's **Spawn**.*

Double Grendel from Dark Horse

THE LONG-promised **Grendel Tales** is set to launch from Dark Horse on August 17.

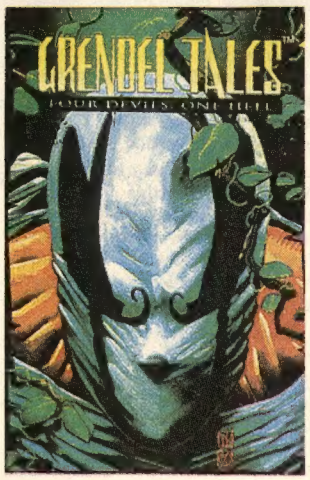
Written by the UK's prolific James Robinson (**The Golden Age, Terminator: Endgame**), the six-issue series is painted by Denmark's Teddy Kristiansen, last seen as artist on Malibu's excellent **Tarzan: Love, Lies and Lost Cities**.

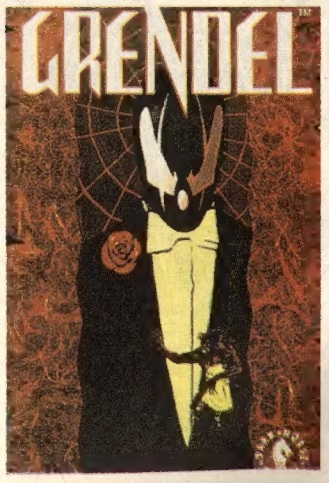
Set in a post-apocalyptic world, it focuses on a New Orleans private eye who finds himself caught between no less than four Grendels.

With creator Matt Wagner producing cover art (below left), **Grendel Tales: Four Devils, One Hell** is a $2.95 32 page colour title.

Reacting to the DC-Comico team-up of Batman and Grendel, Dark Horse is also releasing **Grendel: Devil by the Deed** as a 48 page colour one-shot representing the 1988 Comico origin title.

In addition to the Wagner & Rankin story, the July 20 shipping $3.95 title (cover below) will contain a new Grendel pin-up portfolio.





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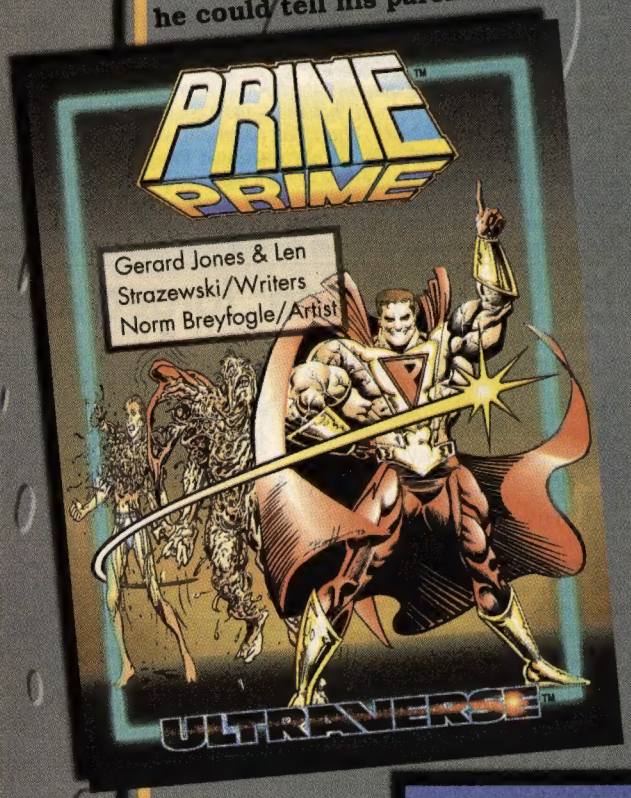

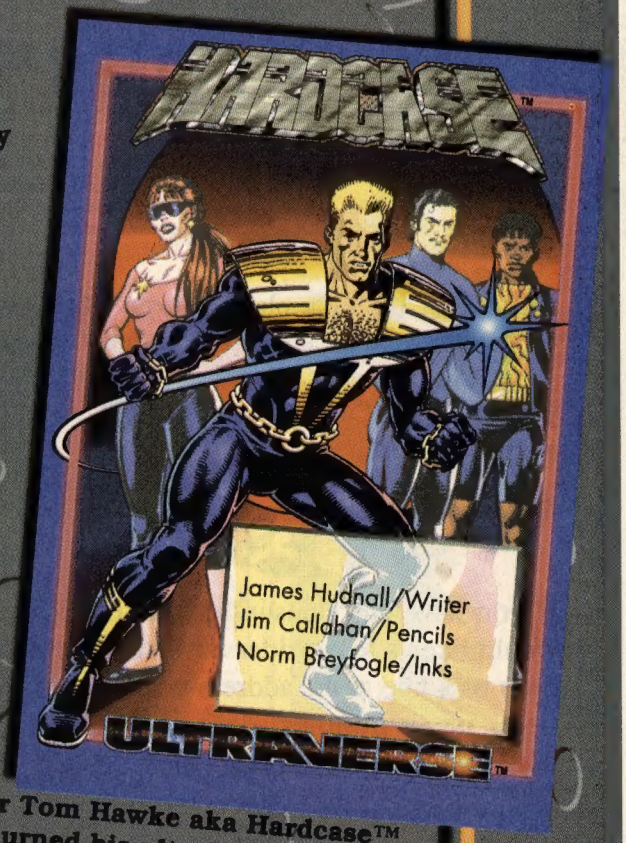

Actor Tom Hawke aka Hardcase™ has turned his ultrahuman abilities into a successful film career with a seven-figure salary and legions of fans around the world. Hardcase has everything a hero could ask for except that his teammates are dead, his girlfriend is in a coma and the world's first group of costumed ultrahumans has been destroyed forever. And it's all his fault...

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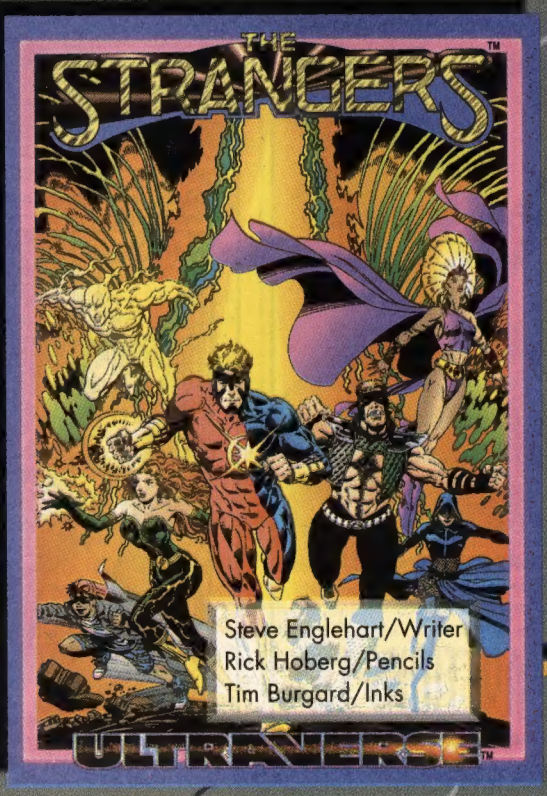

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June '93

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How many lives has a demon? *Jack Kirby's Etrigan had a 16-issue run in his own title,* ***The Demon****, between 1972 and '74. He made a brief return in* ***Detective 482-485****. Then Matt* ***(Grendel)*** *Wagner revived him for a 4-issue mini in 1987. Alan Grant recreated the character for* ***Action Comics Weekly****, leading into the current series. Now, with issue 40,* ***The Demon*** *takes another change in direction under its new creative team of* ***Hellblazer****'s Garth Ennis and* ***Judge Dredd****'s John McCrea as a darker Etrigan is promised beginning with the August 24 shipping $1.75 issue.*

DC's Metal Men: forged anew

CREATED over a weekend as a gap-filler by editor Robert Kanigher, *The Metal Men* made a one-shot appearance in the March 1962 **Showcase #37**. But though the heroes died (melted?) at issue's end, Kanigher and **Wonder Woman** artists Ross Andru + Mike Esposito revived them for the next two issues of **Showcase** and, only four months later, their own bi-monthly title.

But their constant "rebirth" detracted from their original novelty, and the introduction of '60s camp stories led to a severe sales drop, resulting in creators Gil Kane, Mike Sekowsky and, following reprint issues, Jim Aparo, Walt Simonson and Joe Staton attempting to revitalise the team.

Though its 56 issue run ended in 1978, the team has guest starred in various super-hero titles since, and over a year ago DC promised a new mini-series.

By the **Superman** team of Mike Carlin (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller) and Brett Breeding (inker), the 4-issue standard format

$1.25 mini is now scheduled to begin in September with a special first issue priced $2.50, boasting a multi-coloured foil-enhanced cover.

Carlin promises to reveal a surprising secret of inventor Doctor Will Magnus which challenges the very origin of the robotic heroes.

Carl Potts' ***Wolverine/Punisher: Damaging Evidence #1*** *(of 3; $2) ships on August 17 featuring art by Marvel UK's Gary Eskine as Logan tries to stop a crazed Frank Castle from murdering innocents.*

Above: *Byrne pokes fun at the comics industry in the July 13 shipping* ***John Byrne's Next Men 16*** *($2.50) as "Dollar Comics" produce their own costumed super-hero version of the team.* ***Below:*** *The real thing! As well as launching* ***X-Men 2099*** *on August 17 (by John Moore, Ron Lim & Adam Kubert, foil-stamped cover, $1.75) the same week Marvel ships* ***X-Men Poster Magazine #2*** *($4.95, 32 magazine-size pages, cover below).*

Malibu's Ultraverse adds two

NOW producing more pages of super-hero adventure each month than competitor Dark Horse's entire *Comics Greatest World* 4-month line, Malibu's *Ultraverse* adds two new titles for August shipping.

Set for September: James Robinson's new hero ***Firearm****. Cover art by Howard Chaykin.*

● **Prototype** (Mason + Strazewski and artists Ammerman + Pascoe) takes a realistic look at the armoured corporate super-hero. Powerful, reliable, but replaceable... especially when losing an arm in battle!

● Steve Gerber describes **Exiles** as "how people would deal with being **The X-Men** if their powers were contagious". Paul Pelletier and Ken Branch draw the series.

Both monthly, full colour $1.95 titles, **Prototype** and **Exiles** now increases the Malibu Ultraverse to six regular titles, all with firm shipping dates and increasingly striking covers and design.

Also set for August launch from Malibu is **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine #1** ($2.50; Barr & Purcell) and **Necroscope Book II #1** continuing the adaptation of Brian Lumley's horrific saga.

IN BRIEF

Turok takeback

BECAUSE of complaints that **Turok #1** did not have the full-metal cover as promised, Valiant has agreed to take returns from the direct sale market. This should come as a relief to many who had overordered, and had resorted to selling overstocks at US comic fairs in their $1 each bins.

Dark Guard

MARVEL UK's latest super-hero title is **Dark Guard**. Priced $2.95, the August 3 shipping foil-stamped first issue (by Abnett, Pancheco and Jiminez) unites the company's greatest heroes against the evil of MySTECH.

Hellblazer Special

GARTH Ennis and Steve Dillon are producing a 64 page **Hellblazer Special** for DC's Vertigo imprint.

A self-contained story, it reveals one of the more horrifying events in the life of John Constantine and a terrible truth about his past.

Also containing a portfolio section by Fabry, Lloyd, Pugh, Simpson, Vess and others, it is priced $3.95, and ships on September 7.

European manga

BRITAIN's Alan Grant and Tony Luke, currently working on Kodansha's **Comic Afternoon**, have united with Japanese artist Yasuo Yazaki to produce a mini-series for Marvel America.

Psychonauts is a 48 page bookshelf title about a team of psychics who return to a ravaged future Earth long after the planet has been abandoned.

Priced $4.95, issue one ships on August 10.

Temporary tattoos

TO tie-in with the current popularity of Superman and Batman, DC is shipping peel-off tattoos of their most popular characters on August 24.

No longer lucky bag items or breakfast cereal giveaways, the DC tattoos are $3.95 per pack of two.

Return of a Stranger

REVIVING a 40-year old character under the Vertigo imprint, DC is relaunching *The Phantom Stranger* as a **Vertigo Visions** one-shot in September.

Written by novelist Alisa Kwitney, the 64 page title is drawn by **Sandman Mystery Theatre**'s Guy Davis and tells of a withered old man, held captive in a horrific nursing home, who claims to a new young nurse that he is the human half of the Phantom Stranger.

3rd Legion archive

DC is shipping **The Legion of Super-Heroes Archives Vol 3** on August 31st.

Priced $39.95, it collects the Curt Swan classics from the 1960s **Adventure Comics** title, including Substitute Heroes and Super-Pets stories.

Gravestone mini

THE latest spin-off from Tom Mason's Malibu title **The Protectors** is **Gravestone**. But unlike previous spin-offs, the $2.25 title by Martin Powell and Thomas Denerick will be a continuing monthly.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

JUNE JAPANIMATION

MANGA VIDEO bring you TWO essential additions to your collection

URŌTSUKIDŌJI II

Legend of the Demon Womb

Legend of the Demon Womb continues our hero Amanojaku's quest to seek out the Superfiend CHOJIN, destined to be the supreme ruler over all Humans, Monster-Demons (the Makai) and Man-Beasts (the Jyujinkai). Admittedly the shy Nagumo has already been experiencing some rather abnormal twists in his personality but can this clumsy kid really be the CHOJIN? And why is his good friend and cousin Takeaki acting so strangely since his blood transfusion?

Amano's fears for humanity increase when Myunhi Hausen Jr., an ambitious megalomaniac (and son of a Nazi diabolist) starts interfering. A control freak of the first order Myunhi begins to take more than a cursory interest in Takeaki. As the film reaches its horrifying climax the fate of the world is precariously balanced. Will Myunhi succeed in his evil manipulation of Takeaki? Will the three worlds ever be united into The Land of Eternity?

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Kev "Code-Quaker" O'Neill and "Political" Pat Mills are having three of their hero-hating Marshal Law stories collected into a 168pg colour book, ***Marshal Law: Blood, Sweat and Fears*** *from Dark Horse. Shipping on September 28, the $15.95 title includes the UK Apocalypse-published* ***Kingdom of the Blind*** *and* ***Hateful Dead*** *as well as Dark Horse's* ***Super Babylon****.*

The Razorline Barkerverse

ANNOUNCED several months ago, but now scheduled, Marvel is about to launch an entire group of comics, the Razorline series, based on concepts by Clive Barker.

All the comics' characters will exist in the same universe -- or Barkerverse -- and will aim at the super-hero audience, but with the inevitable Barker twist of horror. All will premiere at $2.50, with subsequent issues priced at $1.75

● First to launch is **Hyperkind** by Fred Burke and Paris Cullins, shipping July 13. The focal book for the entire Barkerverse, it tells the story of inner-city teens who inherit the powers of a mysteriously forgotten 1940s super-team, Paxis.

Though the legend of Paxis, it tells of an alien race (the Quo) wishing to defend our planet from warring races who would use the Earth as a battlefield.

● **Ectokid 1**, by James Robinson and Larry Wachowski, ships on July 20. Through the powers of a boy born of human and ghost, the book explores the ten worlds that make up the Barkerverse as Dex Mungo sees into the ectosphere, the land of his lost spirit-father.

● **Hokum & Hex 1**, shipping July 27, is by Frank Lovece and Anthony Williams and is the most light-hearted of the Razorline titles.

It tells of a failed stand-up comedian, Trip Monroe, who finds himself transformed into the planet's mystical defender during a cosmic game of chance between two god-like beings. But while he suddenly possesses great powers, nobody told Monroe how to use them and they didn't come with any instructions.

● **Saint Sinner**, by Elaine Lee and newcomer Max Douglas (see left), completes the Razorline quartet, and begins shipping early August.

The darkest of the line, it tells of a 16 year old boy possessed by a psychotic spirit. When he tries to take his own life, he is saved by a beautiful angel, who in turn is killed by his demon.

When this happens, the angel's spirit is absorbed into the young boy's soul, turning him into the ultimate paradox: possession by both an evil and a benevolent spirit, and trying to keep a balance between the two.

IN BRIEF

Card Collapse

Under a heading of *Collector Cards Gathering Dust*, Diamond Distributors' June 1993 Dialogue Factsheet featured a report that retail dollar sales in the sports card market dropped by 7% (around $186 million) in 1992, and that the number of collectors dwindled by the same quantity.

Fact compilers Action packed Sports Cards attributed the fall to *a shaking out of speculators who bought cards before "The Glut"*. Andy Rapoza, Director of Hobby Sales added, "We think this may reflect a return of the hobby to the true collector".

With all the activity in this summer's comics publishing, how long will it be before speculators face a similar situation with a comics glut?

US Top Twenty

COMIC BOOK COLLECTOR 9 is set to include its first annual in-depth article on the twenty most powerful people in the comic book industry. To maximise on the event, the issue will go on sale at the San Diego ComiCon in August.

Given the super-egos of many creators, the feature promises to be a circulation booster if only among the professionals expecting to find themselves included.

Distribution merger

THOUGH no representative of either company has made an official announcement, it is understood that the Office of Fair Trading has dismissed the appeal against the Diamond-Titan comics distribution merger and that the long delayed unification of the two rival UK distributors will now proceed in the immediate future.

Pekar at Dark Horse

BEGINNING with issue 17, Harvey Pekar's award-winning **American Splendor** will be published by Dark Horse. Their July 13 shipping first issue, priced $4.95, will contain 56 black and white pages and tell of Pekar's youth as the son of communists in Cold War America as well as looking at the aftermath of his successful battle with cancer.

Comicfest '93

RIVALLING San Diego's annual event, this October will see a major Eastern Seaboard contender in *Comicfest '93* being held in Philadelphia.

Promoter David Greenhill confidently predicts the show, which aims at sf, animation, trading card and video game enthusiasts as well as comic fans, will be America's largest such event, anticipating over 70,000 visitors.

RoboCop III in July

WHEN a gang of splatterpunks make life tough for OCP developers working in Old Detroit, RoboCop is given the job of driving defenceless citizens from their homes to allow for the OCP transformation of the ghetto-ised community.

This, the plot of the third **RoboCop** movie appears as a 3-part adaptation by Steven Grant and Hoang Nguyen in the new $2.50 Dark Horse title.

Issue one ships July 20.

Radio Marvel

THE Sports Collectors Radio Show, a weekly one-hour programme carried by over 80 US radio stations, now includes a regular slot entitled *Marvel Spotlight* featuring news, interviews and background information on new titles from Marvel, Epic and the Clive Barker group of Razorline comics.

Malibu and T-HQ

MALIBU Comics has announced a pact with Toy Headquarters to produce video games based on the new Ultraverse line. The games will be produced for use on Nintendo SNES, Nintendo Game Boy, Sega Gamegear, Nintendo 8-bit, Sega Genesis and Sega CD.

Scott Rosenberg, Malibu president announced that the games will be released in August 1994 under the Malibu Games subsidiary.

Batman: the animated movie

FOLLOWING the popularity of the successful Warner Bros tv series, **Batman: The Animated Movie** is now set to be a Christmas 1993 theatrical release.

Animation will be produced in Korea and Japan and voice actors include Kevin Conroy as Batman, Mark (Luke Skywalker) Hamill as the Joker and Efrem (77 Sunset Strip) Zimbalist Jr as Alfred. Let's hope Efram Jr doesn't base his English accent on Dick Van Dyke.

JIM SHOOTER
FROM PROTO TO PLASM Pt 2

His career began as the 13-year old author of Legion of Super-Heroes stories for **Adventure Comics** in 1965. Since then he has been editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics, co-creator of Valiant, and returns this summer with the appropriately-named new comics imprint, Defiant. On stage at the Glasgow Comic Art Convention, **Comics International** editor Dez Skinn talked to Jim Shooter about his 28 years in comics.

WITH the interview split into sections covering each aspect of his career, Jim Shooter gave frank answers to key points about which he had previously remained silent. This issue Shooter outlines his future plans with Defiant Comics.

"FIRST OF ALL, the **Plasm** trading card series is a licensed property. It just so happens that a group of investors, my silent partners, are big shots at Score trading cards. So on the day that we signed the deal, February 18th [1993], they asked for a licensing deal, they said that they wanted to be my licensee for trading cards. Okay, fine, great: I have a license my first day in business. Terrific. Got an advance cheque and everything!

There are a lot of card and comics combinations going on right now — Marvel has Fleer, Topps has Topps Comics, and the fact is that the markets are growing together, the audiences are merging. So it seemed like a good idea to offer something that was a new joint marketing development. They asked me, "Do we have to wait until after the comics come out to do a card set?" So I thought, "Well, the Defiant preview set. Why not?" So they wanted me to come up with a creative idea for them.

Now, I don't know anything about cards — I'm the guy who put the Mickey Mantle card in the spokes of his bike to make it sound like a motorcycle! Everything I'd ever done tended to be story-oriented, so I thought maybe we could tell a story with these cards.

And then I saw how cards are collected in these albums, nine cards to a plastic sheet, and I realised that if these nine cards formed a page, you could read it like a comic book. That seemed like a good idea, so I proposed that plan to them; they thought it was great.

By this time, I had already created **Plasm** 1, which was going to be our first title. It wasn't in the right format to be made into a card set, so we came up with a back story for **Plasm** — if you didn't know it was there, you'd never miss it — but it's nice to have for the inside information and stuff. But **Plasm** was already written and drawn before this thin was ever even conceived, so it's not like you *need* it.

Now, if you bought all the cards and the album it would cost you maybe fifty dollars, and people seem to spend that for card sets all the time. Card collectors routinely lay out that kind of money. But would the comic collector feel he had to have it? Possibly. So what we'll do is reprint it in a trade paperback a couple of months later so that it's accessible. Anybody who just reads comics doesn't *have* to buy the cards — they can wait 'til the trade paperback.

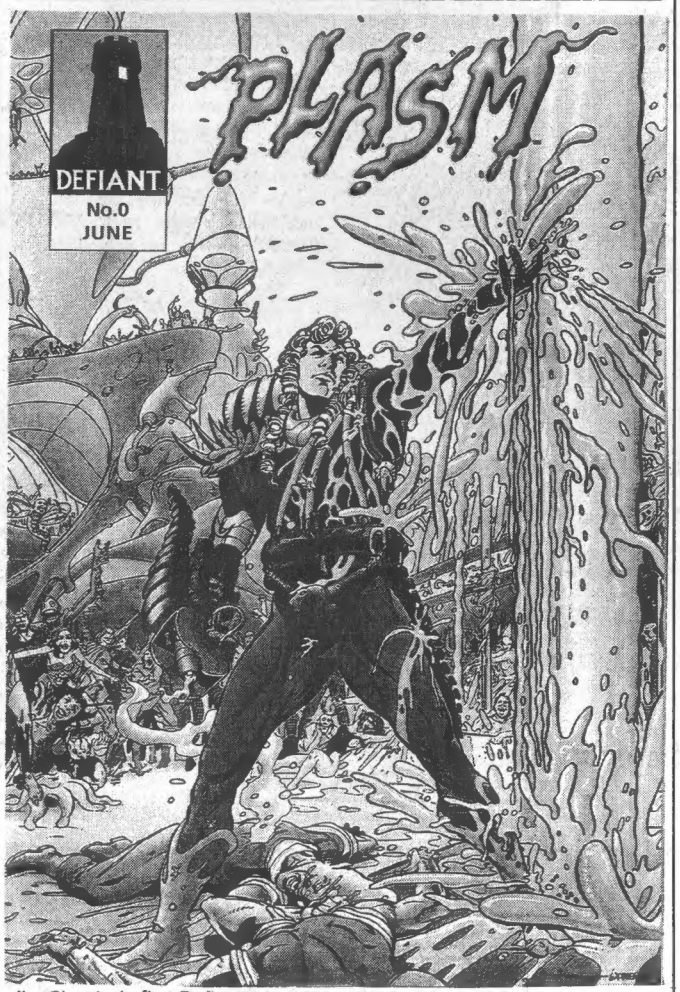
The first four issues of **Plasm** form one story, and the issue 0 goes nicely with it, so we'll release it as a trade paperback at a reasonable price.

In addition, we'll be printing the full story of **Plasm** 0, in full colour, in Diamond's **Previews**. Anything that we ever do that's story-oriented in the card format will appear somewhere as a comic so that people aren't forced to run out and spend an extra fifty bucks or so to complete their collection.

I also don't like forcing people to buy multiple versions of things, I don't like these "every fiftieth one is gold foil", you know, stuff like that. If it's got gold foil on it, they will *all* have gold foil on the cover. That's why I liked the black **Solar** so much: they're all the same.

Whenever I'm asked why people should buy Valiant, I always turn it around and say, "Hey. *We* know how. Why should people buy any of these other guys? They're the ones with the burden of proof". We're the ones who showed them how to do it! Between the time I left Valiant and the time I started Defiant, every major comic book company — every one — make some kind of offer for me to come and create a universe for them. Every one, except Tundra, but they were sort of on their last legs. Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, Eclipse, Malibu...

We [Defiant] launch with a book called **Plasm**, the first issue comes out the first week in August. The cover price is not sure; we have to decide on that next week. We've been pricing paper and covers and we'd also like to do the whole thing with a fifth colour. The creators are myself, David Lapham and a new inker called Mike Wetherby, who left Marvel to come and work for us. It'll be coloured by Janet Jackson.



Jim Shooter's first Defiant title, a licensed card album which also appears in comic form as a bound-in premium in the June ***Previews*** *(Vol III, No 6) and will be included in the* ***Plasm*** *trade paperback collection of issues 1-4.*

The whole period of the Defiant Universe is sort of the reverse of Valiant. With Valiant I started with individual titles, kind of low-key, and built to this incredible, spectacular extradimensional adventure — and brought back from that things to change the world: **Turok** and the dinosaurs, for instance, and the **Rai** powers — things like that.

This time, I thought, "Let's start with *Unity*," that's really what **Plasm** is. **Plasm** is an extradimensional place, and people are going to pick it up and say, "Gee, I thought you were going to do another **Harbinger**". And they are going to wonder why I chose to do such an outrageous visual science-fiction fantasia.

From that will come many things. Our second title — that's out in October — is related to **Plasm**; it's called **Dark Dominion**. We intend to build the line the same way we built Valiant. I don't see why we can't do it again. We have nine titles in development right now. I won't bore you by rattling off the titles, but I will tell you a few of the creators involved: Chris Claremont, Mike Barr, Steve Leialoha, Ron Wagner.

We have some very good people lining up to dot the work. Alan Weiss is working with us, a fellow named David Klein who's working for DC now — he's leaving that to come and work with us. Steve Leialoha, by the way, is going to be inking Steve Ditko.

Ditko is a guy who, I think, has been pretty shabbily treated by just about everyone for a long time. He's a man of amazing talent, and his big "crime" is that he doesn't know how to do Jim Lee renderings and stuff. But he builds a wonderful foundation: he's an excellent storyteller and a man of wonderful imagination. With Steve Leialoha rendering — I feel that ever since leaving Marvel, Ditko has been miscast; nobody has given him centre stage.

This man co-created **Spider-Man** — he was the sole creator of **Dr Strange**. Before Ditko, magic in comics was all people in top hats... then he comes along and introduces the occult, with amulets, other dimensions,

PLASM Signing

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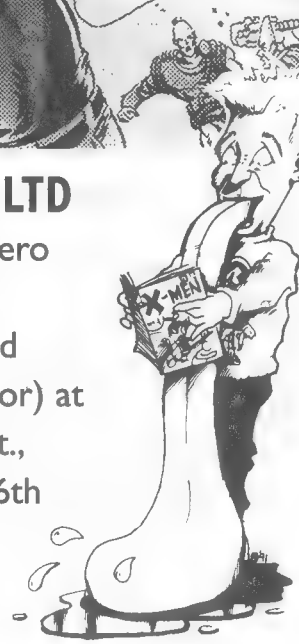
announce a signing of PLASM ™ The Zero Issue card set, by **David and Maria Lapham** (Artists and Co-creators) and **Janet Jackson** (Painter/Design Director) at Floppy Tongue Comics, 96 Fisherton St., Salisbury Wiltshire on Saturday June 26th from 10.00am to 3.00pm

First 50 people through the door will receive a special grab bag.



David, Maria and Janet will also be signing at our tables at the London Card Mart on Sunday June 27th from 1.00 to 3.00pm

We shall also be offering a **Limited Edition** of 250 complete PLASM sets (excluding chase cards, which can be purchased as an extra.) in the special PLASM binder, each signed by David, Maria and Janet, with a certificate of authenticity.

The price of this very special set is £59.95 plus £3.50 p+p.

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demons and things, and since that day, magic in comics has been done Ditko-style. When they bring back **Dr Fate**, it's the Egyptian **Dr Strange**. He revolutionised magic in comics and, guess what, folks? We're revolutionising it again. You watch: it's called **Dark Dominion**.

We've got a lot of good creators, we're really pulling together, building a universe — we're doing it the right way. I think that this is the time; I'm the same age Stan [Lee] was when he started Marvel!

But we're not going to become a big corporation — we are creator-friendly. We're going to be publishing creator-owned material as soon as we get our 'Universe' started and our intention has always been to be a full-service book company. We are all partners in the company. In that sense, we all have a stake in it. That was something I used to say about Valiant, in that I had made a promise to all the creators, but I couldn't make good on it until I'd paid off the investors, that was in my contract.

Well, that didn't happen. But with Defiant I don't have to wait, this time. So all the creators can have their own little pieces of paper, their pieces of the company and they can take it to the bank — they can sell it to you if they want.

I've had a talk with Mike Richardson [president, Dark Horse Comics] — we might even do a crossover with him someday. We've become very good friends over this; we almost did a deal where he would have been the silent partner, but... my theory is, give me a level playing field and the good stuff will go and the bad stuff won't. I think there's plenty of room for new, good books — I think there's way too many bad books out there. You could introduce fifty new good titles and they would squeeze some other stuff out, but that'd be fine. I'm not afraid of competition.

We're going to be based in New York City, 232 Madison Avenue, 15th floor. We have 4,200 square feet of space and windows on all four sides, a beautiful view of the Empire State Building, a terrace... The best part of it is — I didn't arrange this, my financial guy did — I live on the same block! I have a fifty-foot commute!

I think there were various times when there were people who had either some real or imagined grudge against me and have now come round... let me tell you this about Chris Claremont: back when I was at Marvel, Chris and I used to argue all the time. He'd want to do some story and I'd say, "Well, I don't know, Chris," — and we'd get into these battles, usually having to do more with "Can we get away with this under the [Comics] Code?" rather than me trying to dictate the direction of **X-Men**, but... When I left Marvel, Chris threw a party. I think he felt, "Well, now there's nobody to tell me I can't have the girls get into leather bikinis and fight with knives". And then I think, years later, he started to realise that I never took his stuff away from him and I never lied to him — and I never let him down. A couple of years ago, I met him at a convention and he was very friendly and I thought, "Well, didn't he dislike me or something?" I have always had the highest respect for Chris. I think he's a terrific talent and a real professional. He never considered the job done when he turned the script in. He'd recruit artists; he paid the letterer extra money so that he could always have the same letterer. Chris is working for us now, and I couldn't be happier because I think that he is one of the greatest universe builders of all time. The fact that we'd had a period when we didn't get along, that new he's decided that maybe I'm not the anti-Christ, that means a lot to me.

If I make a lot of money from Defiant, it'll probably be split up among the "Defiant Ones". But I'd like to have control of those [Valiant and Marvel] characters back. ❞

"... now he (Chris Claremont) has decided that maybe I'm not the Anti-Christ, that means a lot to me."
— Jim Shooter

*In addition to the titles mentioned by Jim Shooter above, Defiant has since announced its publishing schedule will include **The Good Guys** (by Mike Barr & Ken Hooper), shipping in November.*

*Shooter will be co-writing **War Dancer** with artist Alan Weiss and titles in development include **Charlemagne, Glory, Prudence & Caution, Dogs of War** and **Mongrel**.*

Next: The Marvel & DC Years

The views expressed herein are those of Jim Shooter and do not necessarily reflect those of this magazine.

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Tundra UK bounces back

WHILE the American Tundra imprint is soon to disappear, being absorbed into the Kitchen Sink line, Tundra UK has always had a more focused identity and now, following a spring of reassessment, a high profile line of books is scheduled to appear under its Atomeka imprint.

In the wake of this month's launch of the anthology series, **Monster Massacre**, Atomeka's intention is to amass a line of graphic novels which will have a continuing shelf life, rather than the few weeks given to regular periodicals.

With Knockabout Comics now handling the company's trade reorders for backstock, the main Atomeka push is on creating a *Bisleyverse* of anarchic mayhem and madness. The focus will be on riotous fun with absolutely no regard for continuity buffs whatsoever. Expect such new characters as Manic Mandrill, Preying mantis and Bob Cat, as well as the July shipping **Bisley's Scrapbook** (32 colour pages, $2.95).

Michael T. Gilbert's wonderful monster hunter returns in the July launching **Mr Monster vs the Nazis from Mars** (48 colour pages, $4.95, prestige format) as does **Hugo Tate**, in a 96 page collection of the popular **Deadline** strip.

August sees the collected **Lazarus Churchyard** (120 pages, $9.95) and **The Bogie Man: Chinatoon** (112 pages, $8.95) and the UK debut of Italian artist Angelo Stano (below) on Tiziano Sclavi's **Damien Darke: The Living Dead**. A 48 page black and white 2-issue mini-series, it retails for $3.50.

Beyond August, Atomeka moves into spandex-splitting adventure, with the $1.95 September-launching bi-monthly **Maximum Force** by Dave Elliott and Simon Bisley, and the 48 page $4.95 big-gun sf anthology one-shot **Ammo Armageddon**. Maybe we'll even see the final issue of **A1** soon...

2000AD gets offensive

WITH four new strips on the schedules, **2000AD** is set to get seriously offensive this summer.

- *Big Dave* by Morrison & Parkhouse (see left) has been described as "Manchester's hardest man" and "Essex Man with attitude". Either way, he's lewd, crude and on his way to sort out Bhagdad.
- *Maniac 5* by Millar & Yeowell is the most unpredictable of America's globally-destructive Maniac battle droids. One day he escapes...
- *Slaughterbowl* by Smith & Peart is the future's bloodiest game show and its latest contestant is a greeting card copywriter and suspected mass murderer.
- *Really & Truly* by Morrison & Hughes: Thelma & Louise for the zarjaz generation.

OVER 20 YEARS OF MARTS AND MARKETPLACES

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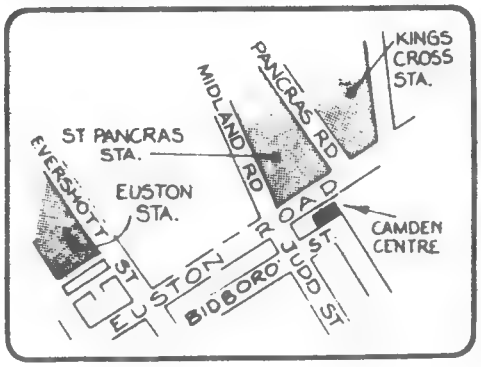

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New Mattotti from Penguin: Murmer

ITALIAN ARTIST Lorenzo Mattotti's graphic novel, **Murmer** has finally been published in the UK after being nominated for the Best Foreign Book Award at the Angouleme Comic Festival four years ago, in 1989.

Paris and Milan-based Mattotti was last seen in Penguin's **Fires**, a graphic novel which was rapturously received by arts critics in the UK, the US and around Europe.

The surreal and huanting **Murmer** is scripted by Mattotti's long term collaborator, Jerry Kramsky, published by Penguin on June 24, and retails at £8.99.

Super-hero title from London Publishing

FOLLOWING their successful **Angriest Man in America** Malcolm X graphic novel earlier this year, **Sphynx Magazine** producers London Publishing House now launches a *fictional* black superhero in **Force** 1, the first of a 12-part series, shipping in August.

Billed as "Lover. Warrior. Hunter. Hunted. Hero. Villain!" Force is a human transformer, able to convert solid matter into pure energy. Abducted by British Intelligence, he becomes entangled in a web of deceipt upon the death of his father.

Angriest Man creator Wayne Massop takes writing credits and artwork is by Marvel UK's Martin Griffiths and **Judge Dredd**'s Richard Bird.

Priced 90p ($1.50), **Force** will be distributed through direct sale outlets only.

Slave Labor picks up Elliott/Robinson strip

FOLLOWING almost two years of setbacks, Phil Elliott and James Robinson have yet to see their excellent **Best Times of Our Lives** graphic novel published (see **Comics International #12**), but in the meantime America's Slave Labor Graphics is producing their **Bluebeard** comic in August.

Using allegory and implication to touch on the classic Bluebeard tale, the story spans Europe from Greece to Scotland.

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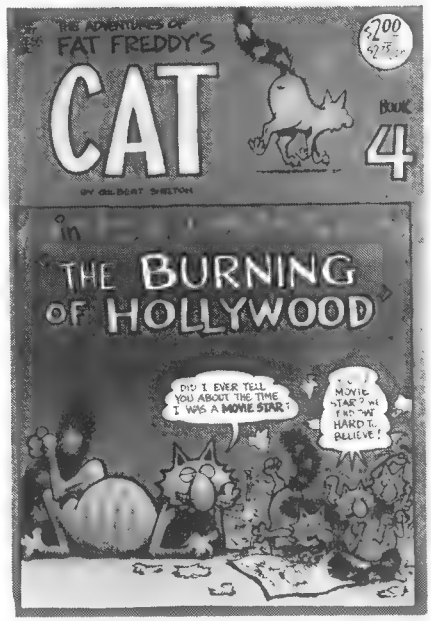
FAT FREDDY'S CAT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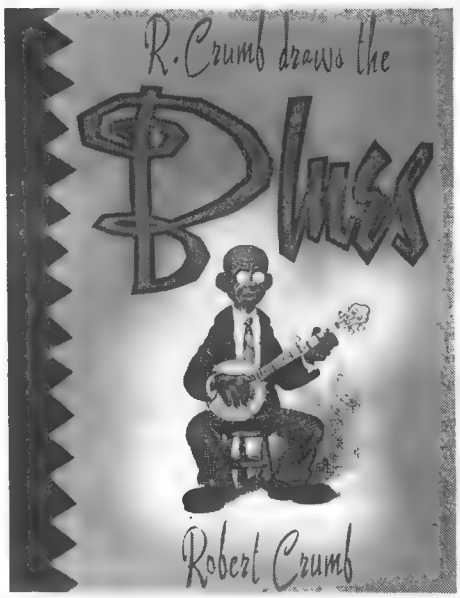

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PACIFIC NOTES

*Helen McCarthy, editor of **Anime UK** and Dark Horse's forthcoming **Manga Mania**, outlines the background to the Japanese animation explosion.*

ROGER Sabin's recent book **Adult Comics** claims that **Viz** is "the biggest selling comic of all time". Nice try Roger, but no cigar - with sales of a mere one million, **Viz** doesn't even make it to number two or three, though it could scrape into the top ten. So what beats those figures, and why haven't you read it?

"What" is a whole range of weekly, bi-weekly and monthly comics, some anthologies the size of telephone directories, with titles like **Shonen Jump** and sales which regularly top three million and exceed five million copies per issue. "Why" is because they're not published in the west or written in English. They come from Japan, one of the most comic-orientated cultures in the world. One-third of all publications in Japan are what we call comics and graphic novels, and they call manga and gegika.

They cover a wider range of subjects than English-language comics, and they've been translated into several European languages for more comic-orientated cultures like France, Italy and Spain. Some have also been translated into English by American companies such as Viz, Eclipse and Dark Horse; titles like **Mai The Psychic Girl, Area 88, Crying Freeman** and (of course) **Akira** have been hugely successful and have spawned a number of (mostly inept) Western imitators.

In Japan, they have a thriving counterpart in the animation industry, a whole range of tv series, films and videos, which are becoming known in the west. A clutch of US companies has been releasing anime - Japanese animation - on dubbed or subtitled form and encouraged by the huge success of **Akira** in the British market, Manga Entertainment Limited, the first of a number of British entertainment groups with their finger on the pulse of fashion, has established a successful label, **Manga Video**, primarily the 12-18 year old white male.

Anime's links with manga art are strong. Many of the best known anime creators; writers, designers and artists, are also well known manga artists. For example, Masamune Shirow, whose **Appleseed** is serialised in the new Dark Horse monthly **Manga Mania**, is the creator of **Dominion**, the anime version of which has been released on the **Manga Video** label, and of **Black Magic**, the basis for the action-adventure video **Black Magic M(ario):66**, which as yet has no British or US release, and of the recent Dark Horse series **Orion.** Otomo, creator of **Akira**, is also well known for a wide range of manga, including **Domu**, which in 1983 became the first manga ever to be the Japan SF Writers' Club "Book of the Year". In fact, the whole anime industry owes its existence largely to a renowned manga artist, and one of the very few to win international recognition outside Japan until very recently, the late Dr. Tezuka Osamu.

*Japan's best-known export, Otomo's **Akira**, concludes its Epic run with an 88 page August 24 shipping #37, $5.95.*

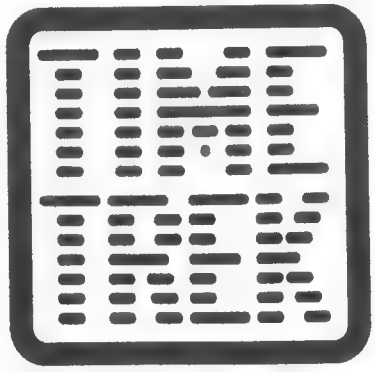
Tezuka's early manga **New Treasure Island** revolutionised narrative comic art in Japan by introducing a 'cinematic' mode of storytelling. He began producing anime (based on his own manga) for the respected Japanese studio Toei Doga in 1959, and three years later set up his own studio to make independent tv series and films. His success in this field was as great as in the manga world and again, he won numerous international awards for animation, as well as seeing his anime series, like **Tetsuwan Atom (Astro Boy)** and **Jungle Tatei (Kimba)** win fame on American tv in the sixties.

Other Japanese artists and studios sold their work to the USA in this period, but in general it was poorly scripted and edited and very badly dubbed. Among the series remembered with great affection, despite these shortcomings, by many now grown up fans, were **Gigantor** (from the Japanese **Tetsjin 28-GO**), **Force Five**; a compilation of five giant robot shows, and perhaps the worst hacked of all, **Battle of the Planets**, taken from the seminal series **Science Ninja Team Gatchaman.** In Britain, we saw a few of these dubbed versions, do you remember **Marine Boy**? You'd be very surprised how many perfectly normal-looking people can still hum the theme tune...

Meanwhile in Japan, a society which could happily accept that adults read comics, had no problem with cartoons on prime-time tv. A growing number of anime productions appeared throughout the sixties and seventies, with a boom period in the mid-eighties followed by a slight falling-off. These days, you only get about twenty-seven hours of animation a week on tv in Tokyo. However, the rise of home video has picked up the slack. The first anime made specifically for video release, rather than tv or cinema, appeared in 1983, and the Original Animation Video, or OAV, now showcases some of the most interesting work in the field. Because video is a cheaper medium with shorter lead-times and no merchandising imperatives, it's easier to release work by unknowns, or on less widely acceptable subjects, on video than on tv or film, and many young lions now start their anime careers in the OAV market.

Britain is on the verge of an anime and manga explosion; the tired British video industry, looking desperately for a boost to flagging sales figures, can't ignore the impact of this fresh, wide ranging medium, or of so much relatively cheap, quickly available programming, especially given the great success of the very limited range of titles so far made available here. Through this column, I'll try and tell you more about anime and the manga it relates to, and keep you up-to-date with the latest developments.

What if you prefer the sort of writing you get on school lavatory walls or in **Viz**? Well, the Japanese do schoolboy humour better (or do I mean worse?) than just about anyone else in the world; but I very much doubt that their versions will see translation!



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MEDIAFILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

THE MODERN REVIEW, the magazine for fans of **Daily Mail** columnist Julie Burchill, broke with her Hugeness's philosophy recently by reviewing Roger Sabin's **Adult Comics** in its June-July issue.

Julie — who as the waif-like **New Musical Express** writer had abhorred the acquisition of both body weight and reactionary attitudes — pronounced in 1992: "There's no such thing as adult comics". And yet here is her august periodical, six months later, running a review of a book about adult comics written by David Pascoe, "an English lecturer at Oriel College, Oxford".

Pascoe's review reads like the parody of an intellectual poseur if read in isolation; only if seen in the context of the magazine's other material ("Low Culture For Highbrows") does it become apparent that this writer actually takes himself *very seriously indeed*.

Without analysing David Pascoe's self-regarding, self-promoting literary style, here's just an idea of the kind of culture the **Modern Review** pays (?) for: "In a strip, narrative takes the form of a series of pictures, some of which may contain text. These images act both as a presentation of the narrative and as an illustration of the text; and the combination of the two elements in the cramped confines of a strictly demarcated box works to stifle the imagination of the reader. Hence, the mind's eye is closed, asleep to the world beyond the band. In comedy this is advantageous, because humour demands indulgence and concentration, but when the comic attempts to deal with serious issues, all that ensues is a savage torpor".

Beyond that response to Roger Sabin's comment that "reading a comic is an acquired skill", Pascoe has almost nothing to say about **Adult Comics**, but instead stumbles on in the same inadequately reasoned style from Goya to Gaiman, over an entire page of the magazine. This review has to be one good reason why we should be thankful that comics are regarded as populist art — not high art — by Britain's great intelligentsia...

Girl-friendly v PMS?

In contrast to this dirge-like pretence of a review was Lucie Young's *Clash of the Super-Heroines*, published in **The Guardian 2** (June 2, 1993).

Young knows about comics, from the kid consumer (she remembers girls at school wearing toilet rolls on their wrists in imitation of Wonder Woman's wristguards) through to the industry power-brokers.

Focusing on DC Comics' "year of change", 1993, Young gives a fairly accurate and detailed description of the progress of women's images in comics, with specific reference to **Wonder Woman**.

She asserts that Wonder Woman's recently domesticated image (the article is illustrated by the **Wonder Woman** 73 cover) is due to a change in readership.

The title was first conceived during the 1940s as a positive role model for girls. From this worthy ideal is descended the current title which, according to Young, "is no longer intended for women. According to DC Comics, 97% of its readers are adolescent males". Hardly surprising, then, that Nancy Collins' "revisionist Wonder Woman — minus breasts, trailer park hair and string bikini" wasn't acceptable to Janette Khan, DC's corporate head.

Young observes that DC's women writers might rock the corporate boat. Rachel (**Doom Patrol**) Pollack, DC's "industrial-strength feminist" has a project close to her heart which will get Khan's presidential nerves twitching: **The Geek** is "a gender-reversed fairytale in which a naive male doll has to be rescued from Dr Abuse and a bunch of circus crazies by all-girl gang PMS (Pack of Menstrual Savages)".

Nancy (**Swamp Thing**) Collins, too, has a joker to play. Her new comic, **Wick** is about "a raunchy female magician who is into body piercing and tattooing", and maintains that, "Laughter is a woman's survival tool".

Lucie Young ties up with the comment that, "It is ironic that in the fantastical world of comics... the dumbest sexual stereotypes are endlessly repeated", adding that the "DC boys' club" has yet to develop "a strong line of empowering female characters".

Now there's a thought: in a business that's frantically trying to expand its market, why hasn't Marvel, DC or Dark Horse grown its female readership?

Bullet-proof bracelets and metallic shinguard flares...

Lucie Young's memory of American schoolgirls going to school with toilet-roll wrapped around their wrists is a reminder that youth consumerism is closely linked to fashion, the means by which we shape our images for outside consumption.

But body-armour as fashion accessory is hardly a new idea and, after all, it's only natural that images created by fashion should find their way into mainstream comics. However, the wearing of *flared shinguards* is really something to be avoided at all cost. Looking very like the flares fashionable during the early seventies and revitalised during the eighties by Manchester's Happy Mondays (worn so that they didn't have to take their trainers off when they changed their keks) these pseudo-flare shinguards serve no practical purpose whatsoever, and merely get in the way of super-heroes in the same way as flares do for normals. If all this sounds unlikely, check the latest (and most bizarre) appearance of flared shinguards in London Publishing House's **Force** 1.

That comics creators have a desire to throw off their anal-retentive, unfashionable image is understandable; but the desire to draw flares — in whatever form — is getting out of hand down at Marvel UK's production line.

Super Soldiers 7 cover art depicts our brave heroes racing towards camera in a scenario that is meant to have taken place in London a decade ago. But wait! What's this? There's a black character, a *Shaft* clone, wearing — yes, a pair of flares! The fact that he's got a mile-high afro and a medallion compounds the error: how many black Londoners were dressed like this in *1983*; how many *Londoners* were dressed like this in 1983? Or maybe he's just slipped out of 1973 continuity for this story? We'll only know on August 17th, 1993.

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COMICWATCH

As a break from the subjective world values and retail opinions this month, we present sales figures for Marvel and the UK. DC decline to release their sales figures.

UK TOP TEN SELLING COMICS JAN-JUN 1992

1	Viz	922,338	(ABC Jan-Jun 92)
2	Beano	230,311	(IAF Jan-Jun 92)
3	Fast Forward	129,714	(ABC Jan-Jun 92)
4	Dandy	97,245	(IAF Jan-Jun 92)
5	Thunderbirds	96,468	(ABC Jan-Jun 92)
6	Look-In	84,898	(ABC Jan-Jun 92)
7	2000AD	81,989	(ABC Jan-Jun 92)
8	Bunty	47,196	(IAF Jan-Jun 92)
9	Disney Weekly	36,390	(ABC Jan-Jun 92)
10	Judge Dredd	35,460	(ABC Jan-Jun 92)

The above are based on audited sales figures produced by *Audit Bureau of Circulation* (ABC) or for DC Thomson titles *Independent Auditor's Figure* (AIF)

MARVEL TOP TEN SELLING COMICS 1992

1	X-Men	967,808	(717,000)
2	X-Force	759,125	(550,900)
3	Uncanny X-Men	731,425	(605,900)
4	Spider-Man	574,825	(1,095,000)
5	Amazing Spider-Man	544,900	(465,600)
6	X-Factor	448,558	(324,100)
7	Wolverine	424,700	(377,300)
8	Ghost Rider	357,200	(411,000)
9	Punisher	330,434	(246,600)
10	Hulk	299,775	(250,000)

The above Marvel Top Ten chart is taken from the average paid circulation of issues based on the entire year, (as filed with US Postal Service, October 1992). The bracketed figures show the circulation figure of the most recent issue when filing made (assumed mid-summer 1992)

MARVEL TOP TEN RETURNS 1992

1	Spider-Man	202,492	(3 of every 4 copies sold)
2	X-Men	182,967	(6 of every 7 copies sold)
3	X-Force	176,758	(4 of every 5 copies sold)
4	Uncanny X-Men	130,883	(5 of every 6 copies sold)
5	Spectacular Spider-Man	128,817	(2 of every 3 copies sold)
6	Wonderman	118,983	(1 of every 2 copies sold)
7	Ghost Rider	117,233	(3 of every 4 copies sold)
8	Amazing Spider-Man	115,308	(5 of every 6 copies sold)
9	Web of Spider-Man	110,817	(3 of every 4 copies sold)
10	What If?	102,975	(almost 1 of every 2 sold)

As a direct comparison between the UK and US comic sales, the John Brown published **Viz** continues to reign supreme in the UK, despite a drop from the previous year. **2000AD**, has switched distributor, and from firm to sale or return terms, but at #7 in the top ten, also shows a drop. But Fleetway's position is strengthened by the presence of **Thunderbirds** at #5, with **Stingray** and **Sonic** sure to position well next year.

While the bracketed US sales figures represent the summer peak period, both sets of figures cover the period immediately before the creation of Image, and the resultant loss to Marvel of many top creators. Of particular interest is the dip **Ghost Rider** has suffered, and how strongly **X-Force** fared against the original **Uncanny X-Men**.

While many retailers in the United Kingdom feel strongly about the (unlikely) situation of new titles being shipped on a sale or return basis (giving publishers a greater share of the risk, the above Returns figures show how important the direct sale comics shops are considered. Without their sales being included, most titles would show at best a one-in-three sale. **What If** and **Wonder Man**'s one-in-two sale underlines their weakness in the direct sale market.

Compilation and analysis by Simon Rogers and Phil Hall

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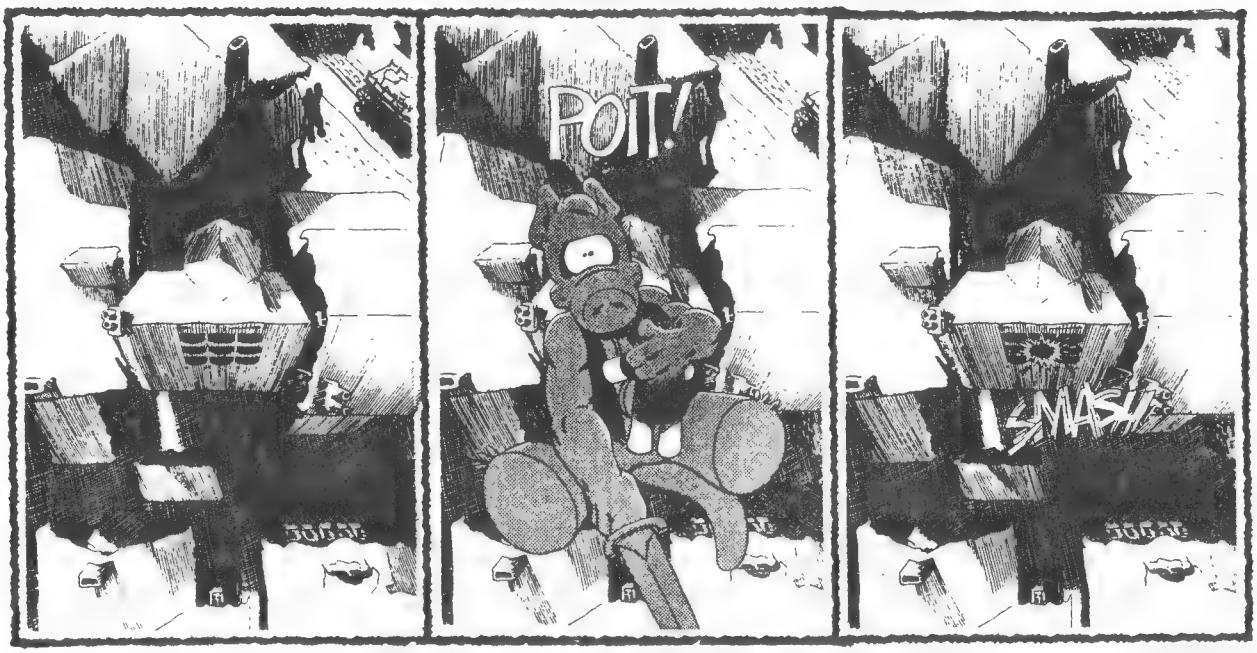

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COMICS ECONOMICS

With the comics publishing industry ever more reliant on the direct sales market, distribution figures show the comparative healthiness of individual titles. While both Titan (UK) and Diamond (US) are to be thanked for providing us with their statistics, it must be pointed out that actual difference in sales between titles cannot be assessed from their positions, as one position can vary from 1,000 to 100,000+ units ordered.

Neither does this reflect retail sales, but only trade orders based on individual retailers' assessments of anticipated sales.

WHILE Marvel can be seen from the chart below to still retain its dominance of the UK direct sale market (with 50% of the top 30), DC show a healthy second place with 30%, Image close behind have 17%, while Valiant's only showing is with the anticipated big-seller, **Deathmate Prologue**.

In America the speculation market leads, with **Deathmate Prologue** top of the charts, followed by three Image titles who rack up an impressive 6 out of the top ten, and 40% of the top 30. In comparison with Britain, Marvel shows only 30% of the top 30, while DC is more even with 23%.

But the top DC titles in America point out a totally different market to Britain; all American charts entries are for Superman and Batman related titles, whereas in Britain Vertigo titles and the Batman/Grendel team-up show a strong presence.

Titan Distributors (UK) Top 30 Titles

1	X-Men 23	Marvel
2	Uncanny X-Men 303	Marvel
3	X-Force 25	Marvel
4	Spawn 14	Image
5	X-Factor 93	Marvel
6	Sandman 52	DC
7	Deathmate Prologue	Valiant
8	Sabretooth 1	Marvel
9	Venom: Funeral Pyre 1	Marvel
10	Cyberforce 0	Image
11	Cable 4	Marvel
12	Spider-Man 2099 #10	Marvel
13	Deadpool 1	Marvel
14	Deathblow 3	Image
15	Spider-Man Unlimited	Marvel
16	Batman/Grendel 1	DC
17	Batman 498	DC
18	Infinity Crusade 3	Marvel
19	Amazing Spider-Man 380	Marvel
20	Batman/Grendel 2	DC
21	Wolverine 72	Marvel
22	Batman:Legends of the Dark Knight 48	DC
23	Excalibur 68	Marvel
24	Batman:Legends of the Dark Knight 49	DC
25	Vertigo Jam 1	DC
26	Detective Comics 665	DC
27	Savage Dragon: Vol2 1	Image
28	Hellblazer 68	DC
29	Spider-Man 37	Marvel
30	The Maxx 4	Image

Diamond Distributors (USA) Top 50 Titles

1	Deathmate Prologue	Valiant
2	Spawn 14	Image
3	Shadowhawk II 1	Image
4	Cyberforce 0	Image
5	Sabretooth 1	Marvel
6	Savage Dragon Vol2 1	Image
7	Union 1	Image
8	Dooms IV 1	Image
9	Secret Weapons 1	Valiant
10	X-Force 25	Marvel
11	Venom: Funeral Pyre 1	Marvel
12	Deathblow 3	Image
13	Youngblood: Strikefile 4	Image
14	Uncanny X-Men 303	Marvel
15	X-Men 23	Marvel
16	Batman 498	DC
17	The Maxx 4	Image
18	WildC.A.T.S Sourcebook 1	Image
19	Deadpool 1	Marvel
20	Adventures of Superman 503	DC
21	Action Comics 690	DC
22	Bloodstrike 3	Image
23	Superman 80	DC
24	Catwoman 1	DC
25	Brigade 3	Image
26	Detective Comics 665	DC
27	Superman: The Man of Steel	DC
28	Amazing Spider-Man 380	Marvel
29	Spider-Man Unlimited 2	Marvel
30	Spider-Man 37	Marvel
31	Ultra-Monthly Magazine 1	Malibu
32	Shaman's Tears 2	Image
33	Turok: Dinosaur Hunter 3	Valiant
34	Web of Spider-Man 103	Marvel
35	Supreme 8	Image
36	Tribe 4	Image
37	Showcase '93 #7	DC
38	Spectacular Spider-Man 203	Marvel
39	Showcase'93 #8	DC
40	Phantom Force 3	Image
41	Solar: Man of the Atom 25	Valiant
42	Cable 4	Marvel
43	Arcadia-Week One: X	Dark Horse
44	Bloodshot 8	Valiant
45	Arcadia-Week Three: Ghost	Dark Horse
46	X-Factor 93	Marvel
47	Arcadia-Week Four: Monster	Dark Horse
48	Wolverine 72	Marvel
49	Arcadia-Week Two: Pit Bulls	Dark Horse
50	Spider-Man 2099 #10	Marvel

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COMMENT

***Comment** is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry.*

As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

Comics as culture?

Comment by Julian Eales, Raunds, Northants

WATCHING TV ads recently, I noticed an interesting trend towards comic-book imagery springing up.

Chief among these is the Vauxhall Corsa series, with costumed models and gothic sets lifted straight from the Batman movies. Even the hookline holds up a torch to its origins: "The New Supermodel".

Whirlpool advertise their white goods range with more spandex-clad fire-breathers and ice-men than Professor X could shake his bald head at.

Comics (sadly, only super-hero ones) have reached the point of absorption into mainstream culture through their exposure in money-spinning motion pictures. With the hype surrounding each new Batman-Superman-Spiderman project, we can be sure that comics and their trappings will become a renewed focus of commercials, as the ad-men try to keep in tune with public tastes.

The fun comes with the realisation that most ad-men are not comic fans.

What we see is a non-comic fan's interpretation of comics, bastardised and shoe-horned into the ill-fitting role of selling toothpaste, cars, cereal... whatever. And they are always the same familiar archetypes. The rot set in when they turned Snap, Crackle and Pop -- the lovable Rice Crispies elves -- into Captain Marvel clones. Even the humble sanitary towel has followed Warren Worthington III's example by sprouting wings!

If only a few of us comic enthusiasts were allowed to suggest which characters should promote each product!

Flash endorsed by the Scarlet Speedster himself. A unified campaign for The Dairy Board, with Milk and Cheese promoting their namesakes. The Beast replacing The Honey Monster for Sugar Puffs. Tigra on Frosties. John Constantine for Silk Cut cigarettes. Death in the drink/driving campaigns (or in Benetton, perhaps?)

If they can make a novel out of Gold Blend coffee ads, how long before we find PG Tips: The Graphic Novel?

Me? I'm holding out for a mini-series based on the Tango characters starring .... Fat Orange Genie-Man, Exploding Woman and Rubberhand .... Mutants waging a never-ending war to protect humanity from the dangerous hypnotic effects of drinking a devilish alien brand of fizzy orange... I'm expecting the call any day now.

Censor... and be damned

Comment by Carl Gillingham, North Shields, Tyne & Wear

IT IS ALWAYS WORRYING when people insist they are not 'Moral Watchdogs' and then proceed to act just as if they are. Such is the position of L. S. Davies (**Comics International #30**, *Comment*). His basic argument went along the lines of "I'm not in favour of censorship, but...". I'd like to respond to Davies on a number of key points.

He says comics with very little story and lots of "needless violence" should be banned. There appear to be two reasons for this: L. S. Davies doesn't like them... and what might non-comic-buyers think? I hope our Moral Watchdogs are making notes. They could learn something from this!

The notion of banning whatever you don't like is as old as the written word itself and must be treated with the utmost suspicion. It is a policy that has no place in a democratic society (whatever that is).

To control comic content so as not to alarm non-comic-buyers has a very simple name: self-censorship. Such a process signifies a restriction of artistic imagination based on fear and a need for conformity. Personally, I have no wish to have what I read restricted by various Mary Whitehouse types who can't tell their art from their elbows.

The only type of restriction that should be placed on comics is already there: the *mature readers* label. This is necessary for comic books to explore adult themes with clarity and honesty. To link such comics with "video nasties, snuff movies, hard-core pornography and such" would be funny if it weren't so frightening.

Davies may not be a Moral Watchdog but, my god, he has been listening. These terms are

labels designed to provoke the kind of horrified response that Davies was aiming for here.

The difference between a comic-book (any comic-book) and *I Spit on Your Grave* (his example) should be obvious; but apparently is not.

I wonder if you've seen the film, L. S., or if you're condemning without viewing, like many critics of *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

A feature film aims for a certain level of realism. It involves real people acting out apparently real situations. The film provides the viewer with a continuous flow of movement and action.

The comic-book, on the other hand, is made up of individual frames and, regardless of how good the art is, they are always obviously drawn and therefore clearly fiction. These frames give key moments within the narrative, leaving obvious and necessary gaps that will be recognised by the reader. This adds to the artificiality of the medium: that is, it is obviously NOT REAL. It is also a damn sight less dangerous than the *Home Alone* movies, where 'cartoon violence' is transferred to live-action film, so people can be battered about and survive without a scratch!

The answer, then, is surely clear. Support your hobby! It helps no comic reader if, at the slightest hint of controversy, we start distancing ourselves from selected parts of the industry, based not on our personal feelings but on how we want others to perceive us.

If we can police our sexuality by labelling certain images as 'pornography', then we can restrict our enjoyment of comic-books in exactly the same way. We must not start offering scapegoats to the moralists in the hope that they'll leave more mainstream comic-books alone. They won't. How long would it be before Wolverine's violence or Catwoman's eroticism were threatened by the censor? It would happen. It already has, remember, in the 1950s. We must educate the general public before the censors do.

Comics are a medium with the potential to entertain, to educate and to excite. They are a forum for mature ideas and grown-up situations. Shouldn't we be announcing this proudly instead of running scared?

Reflecting on Image

Comment by Laurence Milborne, Barnton, Cheshire

IN MY PREVIOUS article in *Comment* (**Comics International 29**), I criticised Image Comics for their decidedly erratic scheduling and quoted two examples from their line that were prime examples of this fault: **Cyberforce 2** and **Youngblood 4**.

Both of these were nowhere in sight at the time, but turned up within days of my article being published. *Uncanny* - or what?

With these two (very late) books now in my possession, I can say that they are also prime examples of what I believe to be two of Image's biggest problems.

The solution to one of them (and I cannot state this too strongly) is to cut all the dross. One only needs to look at Marvel's current plight and the majority of its releases to realise the importance of this. How should Image go about this? Simple:

GET RID OF ROB LIEFELD!!

Yes, him! The 'artist' everyone loves to hate! And while they're at it, they could get rid of his cloned titles, which are even worse than **Youngblood** (**Brigade, Supreme**, etc.)

Youngblood 4 was everything I had expected: Crap. I had to pay £1.75 just for those nine pages of glorious Dale Keown art in the Pitt preview story. Why, oh why, couldn't they have put it in something - anything - else!

Actually, come to think of it, **Pitt** seems to have disappeared off the face of the earth as well. Where is issue 2?

Basically, Liefeld and his imitators seem intent on dragging the rest of the Image line down with them. One need only look at **Darker Image 1** to see evidence of this. In there you have an excellent Sam Kieth **Maxx** story, an outstanding Jim Lee **Deathblow** story and then, in the middle of this otherwise fine publication, you will find Liefeld's **Bloodwulf** rather like the slice of gherkin in your cheeseburger.

Let's put it this way. It's like a fanzine filler with better colouring. It's absolutely atrocious. Just imagine **Youngblood** with worse art, less characterisaton and excessive gratuitous violence.

Apparently Mr Liefeld has confused the term 'mature readers' with 'sick, brain-dead, fanboy gore-hounds'. It ruined the book for me and probably many others.

I could go on, but I'm feeling quite sick now, so I'll move on.

The other point I have to make is concerned with the entire Image line. The need for direction.

To illustrate this, let us consider Marc Silvestri's **Cyberforce 2**: An initially intriguing, well-plotted and well-paced opener with some interesting and superbly-drawn characters had degenerated into just another 'round-em-up-an-knock-em-down' slug-fest tale of

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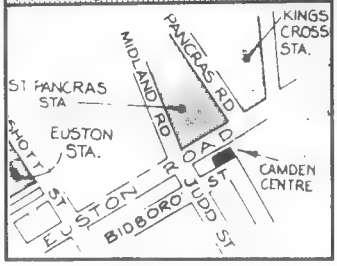

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almost pure fanboyism, with the art looking more than a little rushed in places.

Four months to produce 22 pages of patchy artwork barely up to the quality of his stint on **Wolverine**? Hmmmm... something's not quite right here....

And, Mr Silvestri, do we *really* need that many new characters? This is a four-issue mini-series which was (I hope) intended to introduce the main characters. All these extras just clutter the panels up, not to mention making the plot barely followable.

Call me old-fashioned, but I thought the whole point of doing mini-series was to focus on a single character or a small group on order to give them greater exposure and, in the process, expand on their personalities and interaction with others.

It would seem that I am mistaken and that they are there purely so you can throw in everything bar an intelligent plot for a massive slugfest. Heck, I'd better burn my **Hulk: Future Imperfect** issues right now. They don't seem to make the grade for mini-series status by being witty, intelligent, focused and *on time*.

Direction *is* important. There is massive interest in the Image titles at present, as they are easily some of the best-looking titles in the industry. But how long is this going to last without some editorial head to keep things in line -- and some decent writers?

Not very long, I'd imagine. Soon people will start to realise that, underneath all the wonderful artwork, there isn't an awful lot.

I believe there is a host of talent going to waste on these half-baked projects. For example, Dale Keown's **Pitt**. It's filled with fantastic art, but where are the well-developed characters in superb storylines with witty dialogue from his **Hulk** days?

Nowhere. The story is one-dimensional; the characters are stereotyped; and the dialogue is dull and cliched.

You need only look at the current guest writer issues of **Spawn** to catch a glimpse of Image's potential: something destined to remain only a glimpse if Todd McFarlane has his way.

I am referring to the letters page in **Spawn 7** where we see Todd responding to criticism about his alleged "Marvel-bashing". The reply was: *"You're damn right I'll go after Marvel's finest artists - that's not Marvel-bashing - that's business"*.

Very commendable, Todd, I'm sure. But forgive me if I say that you'd be better off spending your time going after Marvel's finest writers.

But as to the benefits of having the likes of Peter David or Alan Davis working at Image, one can only sit and dream.

Whom do you love?

Comment by Dave Stone, Dulwich Village, London

THE fanboy-fodder serious artform debate is well-worn and misses a major point: that there is nothing wrong with collecting things. And there is no justification for looking down upon people who do.

But the accumulation of comics today does not deserve the dignity of the word "collection".

In the world of stamps, there are listings and price-guides in the supporting literature similar to comics. But you will also find information on the wider importance of the objects collected, their wider place in history, biographical details of the great collections: *"After ten years, X tracked down the Penny Dreadful, which was actually drawn by King Whoever because he couldn't find a stamp..."*

If you try that with the comics world, you get something like: *"Some sad bugger bought a couple of hundred booklets in sequential order and put them all in bags..."*

An easy joke - but that's the whole point. Comics accumulation as currently practised is ridiculous. Aside from intrinsic worth, there is only rarity value.

The central factor of collecting apparently worthless objects is that they are mementos of something else. Cheese labels from around the world remind one of the new tastes and where they were eaten. Ladies' underwear reminds one of how it felt to skulk around the washing-lines at four in the morning. Even train-spotters get the hot flask of cocoa in the cold dawn and the rush as the 5.57am to Bristol goes by.

In comics, we have the...the...I do believe we're back at the *"Some sad bugger who..."* etc, which I'll pass over and spare us all the pain.

Comics are not cheese labels. They are a medium. They are the hardware that supports the data within.

While the walking anoraks of Dr Who might collect all the videos and immerse themselves in the world of the Daleks to the point where they dress up silly and bore people at parties, they don't stack said videos unplayed and unopened and determine their worth by the fact the Our Price sticker and the cellophane have not been removed.

Please don't misunderstand.

I'm not talking about those who genuinely get enthusiastic about stories and characters which I may not personally find palatable -- who might collect and treasure them and quite properly get angry if the continuity is at fault.

This is not about the quality of

the product. What I'm talking about here is fetishism, in the true psychiatric sense of a compulsive fixation upon the act itself rather than the object of that act. In this case, the act of accumulating comics. This is a recognised mental disorder. It is, quite simply, clinical insanity.

You'd think that a resource-rich body of companies like Marvel, Time-Warner and the like would be aware of it.

Ask yourself two simple questions. (1) Are you accumulating comics in the hope that they might be worth something when you sell them? (They won't. You've been conned and you'd be better off burning them and saving the gas bill.)
(2) Are you getting off on the neato power-violence and babes in skin-tight lycra and your favourite characters? (Yay!)

If you answered yes to one or both of these, there might be room for argument on other levels, but you are probably sane in this area at least. If you answered "no", ask yourself this: *If I'm not doing it for money or for pleasure in the things themselves, then why am I doing it?* It is not, after all, that accumulating little booklets and sticking them in bags is a dirty, dirty job, but someone has to do it.

As I said: I'm not trying to pick a fight here. I'm trying in my intransigent way to isolate and lay open an actual neurological disease that certain people are cynically exploiting on a level no more nor less morally repugnant than a crack dealer in a schoolyard. They're hooking kids onto this shit, guys.

There is no shortage of love in this world, there is merely a shortage of places in which to put it. Those who put their love in the wrong places might find oblivion in drugs or eating-disorders... or the mindless, repetitive action of buying little books and sticking them in bags.

This is madness and, like all madness, means nothing and leads to death.

Whom do you love?

A formula for super-femmes

Wind-Up by David Sage, Wickford, Essex

RUSSELL Bloor stated in a recent *Comment* THAT female characters (especially "super women") get a rough time in comics. I agree with him. There are not many original characters about and female characters are always poorly conceived.

The comic buyer is still perceived as a 13 year-old boy and most comics are targeted at him. A feminine character has to be a really 'Hot Babe' to gain the 13 year-old boy's attention.

Just look at Marvel and DC's solo books. Only six of them star heroines: **Wonder Woman, Black Canary, Hell's Angel, Motor Mouth, She Hulk** and **Silver Sable. Motor Mouth's** been cancelled and the rest are slow sellers with **Silver Sable** and **She Hulk** possibly due for cancellation.

Wonder Woman is perhaps the only female title on the market which has the potential to be a hot seller. If some of the care and attention which has gone into the Super and Bat books went into revitalising **Wonder Woman's** book, DC would have a hot seller.

In a recent **Wonder Woman** letter column, we are assured that DC has not forgotten **Wonder Woman**. A new TV series and a line of toys is promised. But what **Wonder Woman** needs is a strong direction, a new creative team and a Hot Babe artist.

After all, Marvel took a standard telepath character, Psylocke, gave her to Jim Lee to draw and - Hey Presto! - we had a ninja Babe with a psychic knife that has X-fans cheering.

We will always have **Supergirls** or **Spiderwomen**. Writers have always preferred to feminise male characters in order to try to cash in on popularity.

Women can cheer that it's only now that Marvel Girl or Sue Richards are not the hostage and that there are fewer token females who have naff and easily-defeated powers. But comic historians can show you copies of comics where they faint from fear or are easily kidnapped.

It all comes down to sales. And female characters do not appeal to teenage boys fixated on muscles, gore and violence. Ask any retailer what comics sell and he will usually say **Batman, Lobo, Punisher, X** books and **Betty Page**.

But writers can write convincing and popular female characters. Chris Clairmont's work on the **X-Men** is a good example. His female characters are popular, varied and original.

So is there a forula for popular Hot Babe characters? And is it such a good thing to think of women as Hot Babes? Well, five tried and tested steps are:- (1) A good name with **Dark** or **Night** being hot choices. (2) A visible power which does not deform. (3) An attitude -- dark, gritty, sexy, Rambitch -- all popular; take the new **Invisible Woman** as an example. (4) Costume: very sexy and tight. Either leather, lycra or rubber thigh-length boots. The more impractical the better. (5) Artist: someone who can draw sexy women. Such as Jim Lee, Adam Hughes, John Byrne. The writer is the least important element in any Hot book of the moment.

I still foresee a very dim future for the heroine. Just the other day, I asked my local comic shop owner whether it was worth putting **Catwoman** on my standing order. He said he hadn't ordered many copies as he wasn't expecting a great demand but, as it was connected with *Knightfall* and **Batman 500**, I should probably order it just in case. ■

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ADVANCE LISTINGS

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Key to abbreviations used:

1 & 2 + 3	=	*Writer & penciller + inker*
sqbd	=	*perfect bound; squared spine; without staples*
b&w	=	*black & white content*
pc	=	*part-colour content*
hbk	=	*hardback (book) edition*
tpbk	=	*trade paperback, squarebound, comic size*
Xpg	=	*number of interior pages*

V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex

All comics are 32 page colour titles unless stated otherwise

SHIPPING: AUGUST 1993

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

☐ **Cerebus 173** (Sim & Gerhard) *Mothers & Daughters Book 2* - Astoria and Cirin's last confrontation looms on the horizon, along with the Final Ascension. $2.25

AC COMICS

☐ **Femforce 64** (Black & Pollard + Ayers) Garganta continues creating mayhem in Hollywood — and her manager, Stella Stargaze and Microman are both powerless to stop her. Only the Femforce can save the day, now. Backing strip is *the Black Phantom*. $2.95

☐ **Femforce Up Close 5** (Black & Gorby) Rescheduled. Joan Wayne, leader of Femforce, becomes Ms Victory — complete with new costume — and fights her daughter, Jennifer and She-Cat. Available in two editions, the second polybagged with a crack-and-peel sticker. 36pg $2.95

ARCHIE COMICS

☐ **Archie 417** $1.25
☐ **Archie Digest 124** $1.50
☐ **Betty 10** $1.25
☐ **Betty & Veronica Double Dgst 41** $2.50
☐ **Jughead 51** $1.25
☐ **Jughead Double Digest 20** $2.50
☐ **Jughead Jones Digest 85** $1.50
☐ **Laugh Digest 110** $1.50
☐ **TMNT Presents: Merdude & Mondo Gecko 2** (of 3; Berger & Gaydos) .. $1.25
☐ **Veronica's Passport Digest 2** .. $1.50

CALIBER PRESS

☐ **Arthur Jermyn: Worlds of H P Lovecraft** (adaptation: Jones & Reid) Based on H P Lovecraft's story of the mentally unstable Arthur Jermyn's search for the reason for his family's history of insanity. b&w $2.95

NEW ☐ **Beck & Caul 1** (Gauntlet imprint; Chaney & Kowalski + Round) First of this ongoing series spin-off from **UN Force** opens with the eponymous heroes' search for an active life leading them to the dread Underside... Plus, the first part of the origin story of the partnership. Includes coupon incentive. Available in two editions, the second with metallic cover enhancement signed by two of the creators. .. $2.95/5.95

☐ **Equinox Chronicles: Blind Faith 2** (of 3; Gauntlet imprint; Hendricks & Sisneros + Simon) Having defeated the Black Avatar, the Equinox team find themselves celebrated as heroes — and the Research Group see *that* as an opportunity... Elsewhere, Arsenal's father's past catches up with him. .. $2.95

☐ **Negative Burn: An Anthology 2** (various) Featuring *Knights of the Skull* (Van Sant); *Mr Mamoulian* (Bolland); *Playmates* (Lang & Leiber) and *The Great Escape* (Bourne & Calafiore). b&w $2.95

☐ **The Realm 5** (Turax & Bendis + Marquez) The capturing of the Orc's leader means that more information about the Lord Darkoth might be forthcoming — including the reasons behind his bizarre appearance. Plus, Dom journeys into unknown territory, where he will unravel the mystery of the Redeemer. b&w $2.95

NEW ☐ **Realm of the Dead 1** (of 3; Garrett & Morea + J Moore) First of the crossover series between **The Realm** and **Deadworld** opens with the rise of a new menace, the Terroreck, who claims the Realm's dead... Available in two editions, only covers differ. b&w $2.95

☐ **U N Force 6** (Gauntlet imprint; Carpenter & Kowalski + Round) *Down Under:* Features the introduction of the supernatural investigative agents, Beck & Caul. Elsewhere, Sir Steel has to persuade his enemy, Gnome, to help him reclaim his demon horse, Equinox. $2.95

☐ **U N Force Files 4** (Gauntlet; various) Features *New Toys* (Kirkland & A Jones + Bradford) and *Double-Edged Sword* (Swint & Frias). $2.95

COMICO

☐ **Elementals 31 — Birth of a Nation 0** (Herman & Daniel) First of a new storyline for the restyled Elementals. Elsewhere, Tommy and the surviving paranormals unite under the title of The Nation of the Supernature. Wonder what Jung would have to say about that? 32pg $2.50

☐ **Elementals Sex Special 9** (Dinehart & Moy + Daniel) Adult, N, S. $2.95

☐ **Ratman: Dark Circle 4** (of 4; Willingham & Herman + McQuain) Conclusion. Ratman gets the bum rush when he's ditched from his own story. The loose ends are left to the sorcerer supreme, Saker. Features a guest appearance by the Elementals. $2.50

COMICS INTERVIEW

☐ **Comics Interview 125** (Industry Magazine) Focusing on the fate of the Dark Knight. Magazine format. $3.95

☐ **Comics Interview 126** (industry magazine) Featuring interviews with original *Star Trek* actors, in a prelude to the new *Star Trek* film. Magazine format. $3.95

☐ **X-Men X-tra Super Special.** Celebration of the X-Men's 30th anniversary, collecting all previously published interviews with creators of the series. b&w 100pg $9.95

CONTINUITY

☐ **Armor 5 (1993)** (Stone & Apthorp + Barras) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Armor is caught up in the struggle between the witch-queen of Atlantis and the warrior-sorcerer, Shaman. Cover: Golden. $2.50

☐ **Bucky O'Hare Volume 2 #2** (Stone & Coates + J Adams) Rescheduled. More comic adventures with Bucky O'Hare and crew. 48pg $3.25

☐ **Crazyman Volume 2 #2** (Adams & Stone, Barry + Bennett) *The Inmate, Part 2* (of 2). Conclusion of the homage to the TV series, *The Prisoner*. Cover: Adams. $2.50

☐ **Cyberrad Volume 2 #3** (Adams & Stone, Adams & Bennett) Rescheduled. Featuring the introduction of new villain, Spike. CyberRad faces the ultimate test. .. $2.50

☐ **Earth 4 Volume 3 #2** (Stone & McDaniels + N Adams) Urth is now intrinsically linked with the Earth itself, and suffers the maddening pain of every toxin and pollutant extant. Features a "real gold" enhanced cover. $2.50

☐ **Hybrids: The Origin 3** (of 3; Stone & Klasic) Conclusion to 1992's **Revengers/Hybrids Special 1** storyline, with the Hybrids battling with Megalith, Armor and Silver Streak in a pre-*Deathwatch 2000* scenario. $2.50

☐ **Megalith 5 (1993)** (Stone & Infante + Saichan) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Megalith, possessed by the werewolf demon, finds himself confronting the demon's age-old enemy, a vampire. *Everyone Has a Dark Side* sees Megalith attacked by a pack of werewolves. Embossed cvr. $2.50

☐ **Ms Mystic Volume 3 #2** (Stone & Small + Klasic) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Exhausted by her recent fight, Ms Mystic returns to discover that Earth is besieged by an enigmatic force, Magic... Embossed cover by Louis and Adams. $2.50

☐ **Samuree Volume 2 #2** (Stone & Schane + Nebres) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. New York City has been consumed by the Demon 500; only Samuree and her friend, Jerri-Ann remain to stem the tide of the Magic forces. Embossed cvr. $2.50

☐ **Valeria, The She-Bat 4** (Adams and McFarlane) Co-produced by Neal Adams and Image's Todd McFarlane, this concludes the **Valeria-Spawn** crossover. Foil-wrapped issue, with a gold foil-enhanced cover.$2.50

DARK HORSE

***Comics' Greatest World** is 16 weekly 16 page colour comics each introducing a character in the new Dark Horse super-hero Universe.*

☐ **Steel Harbor — Week One: Barb Wire** (Comics' Greatest World; Warner & Gulacy + D Davis) First of the third tranche of the **Greatest World** series introduces Barb Wire, a "blonde, beautiful and bad" bounty hunter. Steel Harbor — her given territory — is populated by a horde of human and superhuman predators, much to Barb's gratification. But when the Harbor is set afire, Barb finds herself trapped, and in danger of being burned to death. $1.00

☐ **Steel Harbor — Week Two: The Machine** (Comics' Greatest World; Warner & O'Barr) Introducing Avram Roman, Barb Wire's greatest ally — a man whose soul is trapped within a biomechanical construct which acts as his body. And Barb is going to need him, it transpires, in her fight against the supreme Steel Harbor street-gangster, Mace Blitzkrieg. $1.00

☐ **Steel Harbor — Week Three: Wolf Gang** (Comics' Greatest World; Warner) Introducing Steel Harbor's last defender against Mace Blitzkrieg, Wolf Gang: five super-powered street fighters (Breaker, Bomber, Cutter, Burner and Hunter) primed to protect their territory and repel Blitzkrieg's most powerful troupers. $1.00

☐ **Steel Harbor — Week Four: Motorhead** (Comics' Greatest World; Warner & Giarrrano) Less of a mechanical brain and more a psychopath, Frank Fletcher's intervention in the power struggle between Barb Wire, The Machine, Wolf Gang and Blitzkrieg can only lead to one outcome: victory for whoever Frank sides with. $1.00

SHIPPING AUGUST 10TH

☐ **Cheval Noir 45** (anthology) Featuring: *Suburban Nightmares: Secrets, Part 4* (of 5; Hancock & Cherkas + Van Bruggen); *Post Apocalypse* (Elliot & Thatcher); *Sylvia* (Hollander); *Stan Pulsar* (Cailleteau & Vatine); *Fighting Words* (Bolton) and *The Art Opening* (Cossu & Jasmin). b&w 32pg$2.95

☐ **Dirty Pair: Sim Hell 4** (of 4; Warren) Kei and Yuri discover that a rogue agency has used illegal technology to gain access to the Central Computer. b&w $2.50

☐ **John Byrne's Next Men 17** (Byrne and Webb) Publicity of the forthcoming publication of Dollar Comics' Speedball title means the team's past has caught up with it, and the members find themselves arrested — despite their move to the big city. Backing strip *M4* sees Mark meeting a familiar-looking woman... Features a Next Men back cover by Frank Miller. Mature readers. ... $2.50

☐ **Sin City Limited Edition** (hdbk; Miller) Deluxe edition, with illustrated slipcase featuring new artwork, foil-stamped spine and illustrated signature page. Mature readers. b&w 208pg $79.95

☐ **The Venus Wars II #15** (Yasuhiko) Conclusion. Counter-revolutionary forces are out on the streets, challenging Rado's coup. Meanwhile, Rado himself faces a terminal fight with Matthew. b&w $2.50

SHIPPING AUGUST 17TH

☐ **Caravan Kidd Part 2 #4** (Manabe) Mian is abducted by an android designer bent on using her robotics to construct an assassin, destined to kill the Empress Shion. Wataru races the clock to liberate her — and save Shion. b&w $2.50

NEW ☐ **Grendel Tales 1** (of 6; Robinson & Kristiansen) First of a new limited series sees the return of Grendel in a post-apocalyptic future (what other sort is there, these days?). The Grendel clans have achieved virtual domination of the globe — and a disgruntled, familiar PI finds himself in the midst of a four-way fight between four Grendels in New Orleans. Mature readers. $2.95

☐ **Tank Girl II #3** (of 4; Martin & Hewlett) Woman with attitood — Tank Girl — finally finds the Fountains of Youth (anything beats having a face-lift). Elsewhere, Booga's adventure with the Forces of Darkness reaches its conclusion. Plus, a full-colour backing strip, *Sunflower* and three shorts: *The Joy of Swearing*, *The Joy of Sex* and *The Joy of Mind*, along with a full-colour poster. Mature readers. $2.50

SHIPPING AUGUST 24TH

☐ **James Bond 007: A Silent Armageddon 3** (of 4; Jowett & Burns) James and Terri suspect that the Omega programme is the source of computerised catastrophes in New York City — but they little suspect that an old enemy has re-emerged, thirsty for Bond's blood. $2.95

☐ **Universal Monsters: Creature From the Black Lagoon** (adaptation: Moncuse, A Adams + Austin) Based on the science fiction Universal classic. 48pg $4.95

☐ **Version 2.1** (Sakaguchi) Volume Two

opens with the sighting of EGOS — the sentient biochip — in Tokyo Bay. And its mission? To seek and destroy Hap and Eiko. b&w $2.50

SHIPPING AUGUST 31ST

☐ **Dark Horse Comics 12** (anthology) An Aliens/Predator special, featuring: *Aliens: Backsplash, Part 1* (of 2; Woodring & Plunkett); *Predator: Bad Blood, Part 1* (Dorkin & Thompson + Parks) and *Predator: The Pride at Nghasa — Conclusion* (Dixon & Alcatena). Mature readers. $2.50

☐ **Predator: Race War 4** (of 4; Vachss & Stradley, Pelle + Bryant) Conclusion. Cross and the other inmates of Paloverde State Penitentiary finally face the inevitable meeting with their rapacious pursuer. $2.50

☐ **Robocop 3 #2** (of 3; Grant & Nguyen + Nichols) Rescheduled. Robocop is framed for the murder of his only friend, Anne Lewis — and, being badly damaged, is taken into hiding by the very organisation he was originally commissioned to destroy, Delta City's underground. $2.50

☐ **Robocop: Prime Suspect 4** (of 4; Arcudi & Leon + Albrecht) Conclusion. Robocop stands accused of murdering one of his critics, TV broadcaster Insane Izzy. $2.50

SHIPPING SEPTEMBER 7TH

☐ **Classic Star Wars 12** (Goodwin & Williamson, Nunis) Jan and Chewie return with the last of the power gems to find that Luke and Threepio have disappeared. Unknown to them, Skywalker and his servant have crashed on the ice planet, Hoth — and been "rescued" — merely to provide meat and scrap metal. $2.50

NEW ☐ **Indiana Jones: Thunder in the Orient 1** (of 6; Barry) First of a new limited series set in 1938. Jones is on a dig north of Tripoli when he gets a coded message from his friend, Marcus Brody, telling him to get to Nepal poste haste, where he'll meet a woman from his past in a pre-*Fate of Atlantis* storyline. $2.50

SHIPPING SEPTEMBER 28TH

☐ **Marshal Law: Blood, Sweat and Tears** (tpbk; P Mills & K O'Neill) Collection which includes **Marshal Law: Kingdom of the Blind** and **Marshal Law: The Hateful Dead**, along with the Dark Horse originated **Super Babylon** and a commentary by creator and historian Trina Robbins. Mature readers. 168pg $15.95

☐ **The Thing From Another World/ Climate of Fear** (tpbk; Pfarrer & Arcudi, Higgins & Sommerville, Garvey + R Jones) collection of movie adaptation and comics sequel. Mature readers. 168pg ... $15.95

DC COMICS

SHIPPING AUGUST 17TH

☐ **Adventures of Superman Annual 5** (Kesel & Grummett + Hannigan) *Bloodlines, Wave Two: Earth Plague, Part 16* (of 23). A family of meta-humans fives its only ordinary child to the alien parasites as a sacrifice. Features the debut of Sparx, another New Blood heroine. Continues in **Hawkman Annual** 1. 64pg $2.50

☐ **Batman 500** (Moench & Aparo + Manley + Austin) *Knightfall: Part 22* (of 22). Conclusion. Azrael conjures up a new vision of Batman for the Dark Knight's last meeting with Bane. Elsewhere, Bruce Wayne — badly injured — searches for Robin's abducted father and in *Knightquest*, Batman discovers exactly what fate has in store for him; dual storyline which continues as *Knightquest: The Crusade* — in **Detective Comics** 667 and **Batman: Shadow of the Bat** 19, and as *Knightquest: The Search* — in **Justice League Task Force** 5. Available in two editions, the latter with a die-cut overcover and foil-enhanced cover. 64pg $2.50/3.95

☐ **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 52** (A Grant & A Ranson) *TAO: Part 1* (of 2). Batman targets Johnny Kahn, one of the key perpetrators of a raging gang war in Gotham's Chinatown — but finds that he's got a rival when Dragon, a martial arts expert, stakes his claim. But Dragon has a private agenda for Batman, too. ... $1.75

☐ **Batman: Venom** (tpbk; O'Neil, VonEeden & Braun + Garcia-Lopez) Collects **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight** 16-20, with an introduction by Dennis O'Neil. 136pg $9.95

☐ **Black Orchid 2** (Vertigo; Foreman & J Thompson + Woch) Black Orchid is presented with the ideal opportunity to explore her powers when she is pursued by assassins. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Chain Gang War 4** (Wagner & Johnson + Dell) Animal takes along a handy chainsaw for his meeting with Curtis. Features a guest appearance by Deathstroke, the Terminator. $1.75

☐ **Deathstroke, the Terminator 29** (Wolfman & Erwin + Blyberg) *Deathstroke's World Tour: Part 3* (of 7). Deathstroke finds the rescue mission for his ex-wife stymied when she decides that she'd rather stay with her kidnapper. $1.75

☐ **Flash 82** (Waid & Wieringo + Marzan, Jr) While Flash and Nightwing dash to Starfire's rescue, the hi-tech Combine mob drains her powers for their final attack on Keystone and Central Cities. $1.25

☐ **Green Lantern: Mosaic 17** (G Jones & McDonnell) John Stewart defends the Mosaic from a formidable line-up: Hal Jordan, Kilowog, Flash, Power Girl, Martian Manhunter and Guy Gardner. $1.25

☐ **Hardware 8** (Milestone; McDuffie & Cowan + Manley) Hardware learns more about the SYSTEM corporation from a defected agent, including the fact that he's following in a previous hi-tech vigilante's footsteps. $1.50

☐ **Jonah Hex: Two-Gun Mojo 3** (of 5; Vertigo; Lansdale & Truman + Glanzman) Having escaped another hanging, Hex steams off with a dead friend to unravel the mysteries of the Mojo Man's travelling freak show. Mature readers. $2.95

☐ **Legionnaires 7** (T & M Bierbaum & Hughes + Farmer) While some of the Legionnaires take time out in the Atlantis Dome, they discover that several Atlanteans have been murdered. $1.25

☐ **Sandman Mystery Theatre 7** (Vertigo; M Wagner & Watkiss) *The Face, Part 3* (of 4). Dion's involvement in the mayhem is signalled by a rain of disembodied heads. Plus, more background information about The Face — and Opium den shenanigans. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Shade, the Changing Man 40** (Vert-igo; Milligan & Dillon + Bond) Shade finds out that the beds of Hotel Shade have their own secrets to tell. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **The Spectre 11** (Ostrander & Mandrake) While the Spectre is distracted by a battle with his oppo, Azmodus, the unprotected Amy is attacked by the Reaver. ... $1.75

☐ **Star Trek 53** (Weinstein & Whigham + Starr) The Romulans are wiped out by a time glitch — so Kirk and crew, along with the Guardian of Forever — step in to heal the breach and restore the lost race. ... $1.75

☐ **Star Trek: The Next Generation 51** (J & R Reeves-Stevens & Krause) Back in time to Dr Pulaski's tour of duty on the Enterprise, and Troi's possession by ancient lifeforms who drain the ship's power. $1.75

☐ **Superman: The Man of Steel 26** (L Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) *Reign of the Supermen: Part 18.* The Men of Steel launch a concerted attack on Mongul's Engine City. Continues in **Green Lantern** 46 and concludes in **Superman** 82. ... $1.50

☐ **Valor 12** (Waid & Moore + Sellers) *DOA: Part 1:* Valor finally comes to blows with Vril Dox — and the consequences of the failure of his life-saving anti-lead serum are disastrous. But there's an up side as Valor falls in love. $1.25

☐ **Wonder Woman 79** (Messner-Loebs & Carr, Skelton + Parks) Mayfly buzzes the

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Flash and then turns her attention to Wonder Woman and Etta Candy. $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 24TH

☐ **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 18** (A Grant & Blevins) *The God of Fear: Part 3* (of 3). Concludes the *Knightfall* tie-in storyline. The Scarecrow lets off his fear gas and, in the panic caused by it — and the fire raging through Gotham, demands to be acclaimed the God of Fear. Shouldn't be too many arguments over *that*. $1.75

☐ **Black Canary 10** (Byam & VonEeden + B Smith) Guests Nightwing and the Huntress are forced to take on the US government when they try to release Black Canary from slavery. $1.75

☐ **The Demon 40** (Ennis & McCrea) **Hellraiser** and **Judge Dredd** creators combine to introduce biker Johnny Basterson, who's bent on some unpleasant graveyard pranks — with the connivance of one of Etrigan's old colleagues. But the Demon himself ain't for it. $1.75

☐ **Eclipso 12** (Fleming & Newman + Kryssing) The Shadow Fighters slip in Parador's back door to take Eclipso by surprise. But they've forgotten that he doesn't miss a trick: he's already sussed them and has a reception committee waiting when they arrive. Not surprisingly, this will result in the death of several of the witless heroes in **Eclipso** 13. ..... $1.25

☐ **Green Lantern 46** (G Jones & Bright + Tanghal) *Reign of the Supermen, Part 19* (of 20). The Supermen combo team up with Green Lantern to do battle with Mongul; but things go awry when the testosterone-bound Men of Steel start squabbling amongst themselves. Bad form — and even worse for the Green Lantern, who doesn't stand an earthly on his own. Concludes in **Supermen** 82. ..... $1.25

NEW ☐ **Hawkman Annual 1** (Ostrander & Duursema, Lieber + Magyar) *Bloodlines, Wave Two: Earth Plague, Part 17* (of 23). Josh Xan of the Netherworld transmutes into Mongrel, a New Blood super-aggressor. Hawkman's time in this universe, meanwhile, seems destined to be short. Continues in **Deathstroke, the Terminator Annual** 2. 64pg $3.50

☐ **Hawkman 2** (Ostrander & Duursema + Magyar) While hunting Deadline's controller in the Netherworld, Hawkman runs into Green Lantern — who's bent on discovering the identity of this latest incarnation. When Meta-Tech's agent joins in, a slugfest follows, ending with the unpleasant revelation of the real identity of Marauder. $1.75

☐ **Hellblazer 70** (Vertigo; Ennis & Dillon) Kit is finding it hard to come to terms with her return to Ireland, especially as Constantine's not there. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Icon 6** (Milestone; McDuffie & Bright + Gustovich) Rocket comes to the aid of Icon, who promptly steams into the Blood Syndicate again — but Wise Son provides a little light entertainment for her while she's waiting for Icon to go through the grinder once more. $1.50

☐ **Justice League America 81** (Vado & West + Burchett) The JLA find themselves caught between a rock and a hard place when they try to defend a pair of interstellar refugees. $1.25

☐ **Justice League International 56** (G Jones & Jacobs + Randall) The League is nearly exterminated by a surprise terrorist attack on its headquarters. $1.25

☐ **Kid Eternity 6** (Vertigo; A Nocenti & S Phillips) Kid Eternity takes his newly-found boob tube confidence onto TV — and a bizarre new schedule ensues. $1.95

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 48** (T & M Bierbaum & Immonen + Boyd) *Mordru Arises, Part 6* (of 6). With the rest of the Legion buried alive, only the White Witch remains to combat (her ex-husband) Mordru's mystically-enhanced power. $1.75

☐ **The New Titans 102** (Wolfman & Jaaska + Vey) There are revelations for everyone when Prester John finds Vic Stone's mind in Cyborg. $1.75

☐ **Ragman: Cry of the Dead 3** (of 6; E Lee & G Morrisette) Voodoo vengeance spirit Marinette continues her bid to dominate New Orleans, turning a country club into a slaughterhouse along the way. Mature readers. $1.75

NEW ☐ **Streets 1** (of 3; Hudnall & Estes) Rescheduled. Limited series of three, self-contained stories. *Tenderloin* opens the series, with a story about a divorced, alcoholic homicide detective's investigation of the deaths of numerous young prostitutes. Prestige format. Mature readers. 48pg $4.95

☐ **Superman 82** (Jurgens & Breeding) *Reign of the Supermen, Part 20:* Conclusion. The real Man of Steel steps forward. Available in news trade and collector's editions, the latter with a chromium-foiled cover. $2.00/3.50

☐ **Zatanna 4** (of 4; Marrs & Maroto) Concluding issue of this series sees Zatanna summoning all the strength of her new powers to defeat the elderly — but malevolent Xaos. $1.95

SHIPPING AUGUST 31ST

☐ **Adventures of Superman 505** (Kesel & Grummett + Hazelwood) The undisputed Superman returns to a difficult time with Lois in Metropolis: somehow he's got to explain what's happened (and if he can't do it, what hope is there for DC?). But there's a further mystery to decipher when Superman, Superboy and the Man of Steel launch an assault on the kryptonite-stuffed city of Mongul. Continues in **Action Comics** 691. Available in two editions, the latter with a holographic, foil-enhanced cover $1.50/2.50

☐ **Animal Man 64** (Vertigo; Delano & Pugh) Alarm bells sound for the family when Cliff steams into the school bullies who get off on teasing Maxine. Mature readers. ... $1.95

☐ **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 53** (Grant & Ranson) *TAO: Part 2* (of 2). Martial arts hitman Dragon's secret agenda becomes plain when he tries to kill Batman — who, it transpires, was his rival in a Chinese academy. $1.75

☐ **The Blood Syndicate 7** (Milestone; Velez, Jr, & Chriscross) The sexually ambiguous Demon Fox is on the brink of launching an attack on the Dead Zone when Wise Son's family arrive on the scene. Elsewhere, Holocaust returns, and Brickhouse begins to suffer from attacks of convulsions. $1.50

☐ **Deathstroke, the Terminator Annual 2** (Wein & Erwin + Blyberg) *Bloodlines, Wave Three: Death Storm, Part 18* (of 23). Deathstroke's determined to put a stop to the alien parasite Venev's bloody rule of France — and the secret source of his hardware is revealed in the process. Features the debut of the New Blood, Gunfire. Continued in **Eclipso Annual** 1. 64pg $3.50

☐ **Detective Comics 667** (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) *Knightquest: The Crusade, Part 1.* Homicidal maniac brothers the Trigger Twins book into Gotham for a good time. Elsewhere, Batman discovers a hitherto overlooked vehicle in the Batcave (!) and Robin gets slung out onto the streets. $1.25

☐ **Enigma 8** (of 8; Vertigo; Milligan & Fegredo) As Enigma prepares for a slugfest with his worst enemy, the ultimate mystery unfolds. Mature readers. $2.50

☐ **Flash 83** (Waid & Wieringo + Marzan, Jr) Flash, Nightwing and Starfire have just ten minutes to find a huge bomb hidden in the city — a parting shot from the Combine. Elsewhere, Wally and Linda reach a watershed in their relationship. $1.25

☐ **Justice League Task Force 5** (O;Neil & Velluto + Albrecht) *Knightquest: The Search, Part 1.* Green Arrow, Gypsy and Bronze Tiger join Batman in an overseas search for Robin's father. $1.25

☐ **The Last One 4** (of 6; J M DeMatteis & Sweetman) Myrwann finds himself back in

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the Victorian era; a literary outcast in a society repressed by snobbism and supposed moral righteousness. Mature readers. $2.50

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '93 #59** (Waid & Kitson + Stokes) When Phase and the L.E.G.I.O.N. are charged with defending a client world against barbarian invaders, Phase finds her loyalties to the team — and its mission severely tested. $1.75

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes Archives, Volume 3** (hdbk) Deluxe edition, featuring 13 stories. 224pg $39.95

☐ **Metamorpho 3** (of 4; Waid & Nolan + Boyd) Metamorpho's global search for the Orb of Ra ends in the romantic location of Casablanca — but that's the only thing romantic about the scenario, given that he's forced to battle one of his own species to save his son. $1.50

☐ **Showcase '93 10** (of 12; various) Featuring *The Huntress, Part 2* (of 2; Moench & Willingham + Austin); *The Kobra Kronicles, Part 5* (Baron & Barker + Marzan, Jr) and *Martian Manhunter* (Wein & Immonen + Santiago). 48pg $1.95

☐ **Skin Graft 4: The Adventures of a Tattooed Man** (of 4; Prosser & Pleece) Conclusion. Oakes's notion of the world falls apart when he discovers who the skinslayer really is. Mature readers. $1.75

☐ **Star Trek: The Next Generation 52** (Friedman & Marcos) Picard and Dr Crusher travel back in time to 1940s San Francisco to investigate a new Dixon Hill holodeck conundrum. But, as ever, the holodeck has hidden dangers. $1.75

☐ **Swamp Thing 136** (Vertigo; Collins & Braun + DeMulder) While Swamp Thing and Lady Jane chill out in the Green, Arcane takes the opportunity to attack Abby. Elsewhere, Dr Polygon undergoes a strange transformation. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Team Titans 13** (Jiminez & Jensen, Jiminez & Blyberg) The Leader's time travel experiments has repercussions of monolithic proportions. $1.75

NEW ☐ **Vertigo Visions: The Phantom Stranger 1** (Vertigo; Kwitney & Davis) First of a new series opens with a new employee's terrifying experience in a bizarre — nay, a *supernatural* nursing home. Mature readers. $3.50

SHIPPING SEPTEMBER 7TH

☐ **Action Comics 692** (Stern & Guice + Rodier) Life's a bed of roses for the new Superman — now he knows he's *it*, but what happens to the suckers who *thought* that they were it? Sad tale, but someone's got to tell it. $1.50

☐ **The Batman Adventures 13** (adaptation: Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) Derived from the TV animated series. Batman's race against time is joined by an outsider, Ra's al Ghul's daughter. Place your bets. .. $1.25

☐ **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 19** (A Grant & Blevins) *Knightquest: The Crusade, Part 2.* The revitalised Batman launches his assault on the quivering criminals of Gotham. Ah, power! $1.75

☐ **Catwoman 3** (Duffy & Balent + Giordano) Pursuing her assassin on the Santa Prisca island, Catwoman stumbles unexpectedly on the origin of Bane. $1.50

☐ **The Darkstars 13** (Friedman & Byrd + Branch) An ex-Darkstar member forms an alliance with the alien underworld — and the syndicate decide to eradicate Earth's team. $1.75

☐ **Doom Patrol 71** (Vertigo; Pollack & Medley + Higgins) Cliff makes a startling discovery about his past and the Patrol encounters Coagula. Meanwhile, Dorothy joins the Wild Girls and has some fun. Mature readers. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Eclipso Annual 1** (Fleming & Klein + Kryssing) *Bloodlines, Wave Three: Death Storm, Part 19* (of 23). You can bet that Eclipso, after discovering the alien parasite's concealed vessel, won't fight them for the good of humanity — no, global domination is his plan, and he's sticking to it. Features the debut of New Blood Prism. Continued in **Demon Annual 1**. 64pg $2.50

☐ **The Extremist 2** (of 4; Vertigo; Milligan & McKeever) Over two years ago, Judy's husband Jack assumed the role of the Extremist. His relationship with Patrick and events leading up to his murder are revealed. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **The Golden Age 2** (Robinson & P Smith) *Elseworlds:* Green Lantern, Johnny Quick, Starman and Hourman find that the pressure to take up their superhero mantles are growing too great to resist... Meanwhile, the Americommando contrives to create the first superhero for the Atomic Age and Paul Kirk, former Manhunter, finds that old skills die hard as he faces a veritable horde of enemies. Foil-embossed cover; Prestige format. 48pg $4.95

☐ **Green Arrow 79** (Grell & Marimon + Nyberg) Green Arrow finds himself the target of two hate campaigns. $1.75

☐ **Guy Gardner 13** (Dixon & Staton + T Beatty) *Guy Gardner: Year One, Part 3* (of 4). Contemporary Gardner teams up with his teenaged counterpart to take on a gang of killers. $1.25

NEW ☐ **Hellblazer Special 1** (Ennis & Dillon) One-shot story focuses on a dramatic and painful incident which happened during Constantine's teenage years, the memory of which is triggered by a chance meeting on a London street, with repercussions on his ongoing fight with the First of the Fallen. Includes a portfolio featuring artwork by, among others, Vess, Case, Pugh, Simpson, Winslade, Fabry and Lloyd. Mature readers. 64pg $3.95

☐ **Justice League International 57** (G Jones & Jacobs + Randall) The League's power base is severely eroded: decimated by an anonymous attack, the members can't even return to their base — it's been reduced to a smoking ruin. It's enough to make a man (or two) hand in his badge. $1.25

☐ **Kamandi: At Earth's End 5** (of 6; Veitch & Gomez + Barreiro) An *Elseworlds* mini-series. Kamandi and an ancient Superman unite to do battle Ben Boxer and his cybernetic vigilantes. $1.75

NEW ☐ **Metal Men 1** (of 4; Carlin & Jurgens + Breeding) First of a limited series opens with Doctor Magnus sending the Metal Men out on a mission to retrieve a fallen meteor — a mission which will bring unpleasant secrets to light. Multi-coloured foil embossed cover. $2.50

☐ **Scarlett 10** (Joyner & Wilson + Fern) *Blood of the City, Part 1* (of 5). Scarlett hits a Houston depopulated by the brutal battle between Montero and Sigoth. $1.75

☐ **Static 5** (Milestone; Washington & Leon + Mitchell) While on a shop-'til-you-drop search for dread shoes, Virgil and Frieda encounter hundreds of small shoplifters... but when Static investigates the strange outbreak of kleptomania, he discovers just the one — and he's *huge*. $1.50

DEFIANT COMICS

NEW ☐ **Plasm 1** (Shooter & Lapham + Witherby) First of an continuing series (and the first of those for Defiant). Plasm is an organic empire — everything is constantly recycled: little value is placed on an individual life. But among the compliant Plasmoids there are rebels, individuals who believe in the sanctity of life — like high-ranking officer Lorca. Lorca discovers Earth, and decides to bring five humans back to Plasm, genetically restyle them (thus making them superhuman) and enlist them in a conspiracy to overthrow the Plasm empire. 32pg $2.95

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

☐ **Peepshow 5** (Matt) *Binswhacker, Part 2:* Joe's increasingly desperate search for a girlfriend eventually leads to Mary — but he's still obsessed with his first girlfriend, the sexually-adventurous Laura. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.95

EC COMICS

Chronological colour reprints by Cochran of the 1950s horror and sf classics

☐ **Two-Fisted Tales 5** Featuring: *Enemy Contact* (Davis); *Dying City* (Toth); *Massacre at Agincourt* (Wood) and *Chicken* (Severin & Elder). Cover: Kurtzman. $2.00

☐ **Vault of Horror 5** Featuring: *Werewolf Concerto* (Craig); *Fitting Punishment* (Ingels); *The Grave Wager* (Kamen) and *Escape* (Feldstein). Cover: Craig. $2.00

NEW **War Against Crime** Reprints **War Against Crime/Crime Patrol** 1-16 (pre-trend period) in a four-volume set. $130.00

☐ **Weird Fantasy 5** Featuring: *Child of Tomorrow* (Feldstein); *The Time Machine and Shmoe* (Kurtzman); *Deadlock* (Wood) and *Prediction of Disaster* (Kamen). Cover: Feldstein. $2.00

ECLIPSE COMICS

☐ **Deadbeats 2** (Claypool imprint; Howell & Villagran) *Fear City Saga, Part 6: They All Laughed.* Kory Tenhook is captured and tortured by the Deadbeats. b&w ... $2.50

☐ **Elvira 4** (Claypool imprint edited by Richard Howell; Dini & Fry + Austin) Offbeat humour and horror with TV host Elvira plus back-up serial. b&w $2.50

☐ **Phantom of Fear City 3** (Claypool imprint; Englehart & Miraglia + Anderson) *Fear City Saga: Part 5.* The animated corpse of Alison Robbin walks the streets of Fear City. Includes a preview of **Deadbeats** (Howell & Villagran). b&w $2.50

☐ **Life of Death** (hdbk; Claypool imprint; Barker, Burke, Niles, Stanyard + Gomez) Yet another adaptation of Clive Barker's **Books of Blood**. Backup strip is *New Murders in the Rue Morgue.* Foil-embossed cover. 96pg $32.99

☐ **Tales of the Beanworld 20** (Marder) *Why Me?* Rescheduled. Effectively **Beanworld #0**, in which Professor Garbanzo, trapped in her own lab, muses on her role as the Beanworld tool maker. b&w $2.50

ETERNITY COMICS

☐ **Captain Harlock: The Machine People 4** (Gibson & Eldred) Harlock races the clock to intervene in the bloody fight between Baron Darghund and Neville Cabal — but he realises that he can't really change the outcome. b&w $2.50

☐ **Eternity Triple Action 6** (anthology) Featuring: *Gigantor* (Danko & Jang); *Earth Shark, Part 2* (Waltrip) and *Dead Heat* (Howle & Cash). b&w $2.50

☐ **Ninja High School in Color 10** (Ross & Tron) **Ninja High School** 10 reprinted in colour. $1.95

☐ **Robotech: Invid War 16** (Spangler & Eldred) While the Invid War rumbles on in outer space, Nova Satori and the GMP, along with John Carpenter and the Splinters, battle for control of Jonathan Wolf's base. b&w $2.50

☐ **Robotech: Return to Macross 6** (Spangler & Eldred) On Macross Isle, the Knight of Knives makes another attack. Meanwhile, Fokker decides to launch his own investigation into Nadia's murder — and Breetai is entrapped by the same method as Kyron. b&w $2.50

☐ **Robotech II: The Sentinels Book Three 2** (Mason & Waltrip) Stranded on Praxis, the Sentinels' hopes of rejoining their fleet look pretty slim. On SDF-3, rebels plot the assassination of the Regent during his visit. b&w $2.50

FANTACO

☐ **Broken Mirrors, Broken Minds: The Dreams of Dario Argento** (pbk; Maitland McDonagh) A look at the career of the Italian horror director, with stills from his films, including *Two Evil Eyes.* b&w $24.95

NEW ☐ **Kill Me Slowly 1** (anthology) First of a new horror anthology series, including contributions by Niles, Whiting, Singh, Crutchley, Dilworth and Dickinson. Available in two editions, the latter bagged with a signed and numbered dart plate (Whiting). Prestige format. Mature readers. b&w $7.95/10.00

NEW ☐ **Vault of Screaming Horror 1** (Singh) First of a new horror series described by Fantaco as being "in the EC tradition". This issue, "England's Guru of Gore" (Gurchsin Singh) presents: *Road Hog, Gag Time* and *Out of My Head.* Mature readers. b&w $3.50

FANTAGRAPHICS

☐ **Bleeding Heart 5** (Kuper) Featuring: *Love-Hate Relationship, Part 2; Beaten Path* and an adaptation of a Franz Kafka short story. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

NEW ☐ **Brain Capers 1** (Hernandez) Compilation of Mario Hernandez's non **Love & Rockets** material, including *Likes and Lumps of a He-Devil, Waiting For You* and *Wibble M Soul.* Mature readers. b&w 48pg $3.95

☐ **Comics Journal 162** (consumer magazine) Featuring the transliteration of a discussion between Chester Brown (**Yummy Fur**), Joe Matt (**Peep Show**) and Seth (**Palookaville**). Plus, interviews with Dennis Eichhorn (**Real Stuff**), Diane Noomin (editor, **Twisted Sisters**) and Harvey Pekar, along with regular columns. Mature readers. Magazine format. $4.95

☐ **Idlotland 3** (Leib & Allen) Including: *Morties, Corn Squeezin's* and *Surrealism, How to Make It.* Mature readers, b&w, 24 pages $2.50

☐ **Naughty Bits 10** (Gregory) Roberta's Bitchy Bitch strikes again, including *The Real Woman's Male Price Guide.* A male with a frail ego? Who would have thought it. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.50

☐ **Snake Eyes III** (various) Anthology, with contributions by cartoonists Newgarden, Kaz, Head, Mazzucchelli, Van Horn, Cloeckner, Woodring and Green, with a fold-out by Allen & Leib. Adult, S. 100pg b&w $2.50

☐ **Zoot 4** (R & A Langridge) Art d'Ecco and the Gump throw a party in *Miter Piggy Gibs* — sponsored by the Dutch Tourist Authority, and in *Derek Seal's Story*, Derek conducts a literary Q&A session... Mature readers, b&w 24pg $2.50

HARRIS COMICS

☐ **Cain 4** (Quinn & King + Banning) Conclusion. Missiles (and brain-washed zombies) rain down on Times Square. Includes free poster. $2.25

☐ **Vampirella 10** (Sniegoski & Crespo + Minor) While Pendragon flexes his mystical muscles, Vampirella and Adam take out a bunch of sadistic Chaos acolytes. Elsewhere, after three kids escape from the Danse Macabre corps, Danser Dervish is commissioned to recruit Vampirella. $2.95

NEW ☐ **Vortex 1** (Martin) First of a series designed to showcase the work of new comic book artists. b&w $2.50

HARVEY COMICS

☐ **Alvin & the Chipmunks 3** ... $1.50
☐ **Casper 17** $1.50
☐ **Casper Enchanted Tales Dgst 6** $1.75
☐ **The Flintstones 7** $1.50
☐ **The Incredible Crash Dummies 2** $1.50
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☐ **Pink Panther 2** $1.50
☐ **Richie Rich 17** $1.50
☐ **Richie Rich Money World Dgst 8** $1.75
☐ **Tom & Jerry 10** $1.50
☐ **Wendy 12** $1.50
☐ **Woody Woodpecker 9** $1.50
☐ **Yogi Bear 5** $1.50

IMAGE COMICS

☐ **Bloodstrike 5** (Liefeld, Giffen, Fraga + Miki). Deadlok returns to base — and launches immediately into a fight with Cabbot. Bloodstrike, meanwhile, is despatched to investigate the whys and wherefores of Supreme's return — and to eradicate Heavy Mettle. $1.95

☐ **Brigade 4** (Stephenson + Mychaels + Rapmund) Kayo returns to Japan to fulfil a debt of honour to the Yakuza. And a stranger, who calls himself Roman, brings revelations about the origin of Seahawk and Coldsnap. $1.95

☐ **Darker Image 4** (of 4; Liefeld & Kieth + Lee) Rescheduled. Conclusion of this series sees The Maxx returning to contemporary reality; Bloodwulf stranded on a planet populated by pregnant men; Deathblow infiltrates the Dante Penitentiary, Florida and the "Forces of Darkness are awakening after centuries of slumber". Make of it what you will. $2.50

☐ **Deathblow 4** (Lee & Choi, Chiodo + Heisler) Cray and the SOG team target Kussein and his henchmen in a bid to find their cache of SCUD missiles. $1.95

☐ **Deathmate Epilogue** (Valiant/Image; Silvestri & Layton, Quesada + Williams) Conclusion of the Valiant/Image crossover. All of the Valiant and Image heroes face elimination unless the alliance between Solar, Supreme, Master Darque, Doctor Eclipse and Lord Fate can project itself into future action to prevent Solar and Void consummating their relationship. ... $2.95

☐ **Doom's IV 3** (Liefeld & Pacella) With Grimm gone, the remaining team members face Doom Corp on their own. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Extreme 1** (various) First of a new quarterly anthology series, to introduce new Image characters Sword & Stone, Knightfall, Code 9, Law and Order and Black Flag. $2.95

NEW ☐ **Gen-X 1** (Lee & Choi, Scott, Garner, Chiodo + Heisler) First of an ongoing series opens with an introduction to the Gen-X team: Burn-Out, Fairchild, Freefall and Grunge: ordinary teenagers whose lives are thrown into utter disarray when the government decide that they pose a threat to national security.$2.50

☐ **The Maxx 6** (Kieth) Maxx's quest to find clarity in the confusion of Dreamtime and reality continues. $1.95

☐ **Savage Dragon Limited Edition** (hdbk; Larsen) Reprints the original **Savage Dragon** series. $39.95

☐ **Savage Dragon 3** (Larsen) Introduces LowBlow, Body Count and Bud Ugly, along with the return of Mighty Man. Elsewhere, the Dragon schlepps back to Chicago to confront the Fiend. Plus, a *Mighty Man* backing story (Larsen & Bridges + Austin) $1.95

☐ **Shadowhawk II 3** (Valentino & Wolf) Shadowhawk faces a fight with the world's most dangerous bounty hunter. Features a fold-out cover that "animates Shadowhawk taking off his mask". $2.95

☐ **Shaman's Tears 4** (Grell & Chiodo, Davis, Gold, Haynie + Snoddy) Conclusion of the origin story, with Joshua Brand taking on Bar Sinister's agents. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Stryke Force 1** (Silvestri & Peterson + Panosian) First of an ongoing series dedicated to Cyberforce leader Morgan Stryker's addiction to action. Stryke Force is his *other* team, set up to provide protection for blue-chip clients — and they're prepared to undertake any mission, no matter the risk. With foil-embossed cover. $2.50

☐ **Stupid 2** (Barta & Rice) Spoof title, in conjunction with Surly Hack Studios. Available in two editions, the second of which is in 3-D (free glasses). $1.95/2.95

NEW ☐ **SuperPatriot 1** (Larsen & Giffen + Johnson) First of a spin-off series from **Savage Dragon** and **Youngblood: Strykefile**. SuperPatriot is abducted by a government agency which tries to reprogramme him for their own uses. $1.95

☐ **Supreme 5** (Liefeld & Murray) Rescheduled. Supreme is captured and presented to Khrome after a planet-traversing chase sequence — and the Star Guard puzzle over a way to stop Khrome from killing him. $1.95

☐ **Trencher 4** (Giffen) Introducing Nigel P Riperton, the world's smallest Elvis impersonator. $1.95

☐ **WILDC.A.T.S: Trilogy 3** (of 3; Lee & Wyn, Choi, Chiodo + Heisler) Conclusion. Zealot confronts her former Coda Sister colleague, Artemis. Elsewhere, Grifter goes off his trolley in a battle with Hightower: only the WildCATS can save them now. . $1.95

NEW ☐ **WildC.A.T.S. Yearbook 1** (Charest & Williams, Gerber, Chiodo + Heisler) Void attempts to protect the newly-born Gifted One against the Daemonite — who enlists child seeress Baron Destine to help him find the baby. The WildCATS must reach the baby first to prevent the Daemonite creating a formidable new entity. $3.50

☐ **1963 #5: Horus, Lord of Light** (A Moore & Veitch) *Twelve Hours to Dawn:* Ra, King of the Gods, commissions Horus to escort him through the Twelve Hours of Night — with Set and Anubis in hot pursuit $1.95

INNOVATION

☐ **Beauty and the Beast 7** Adapted from the cult TV series. $2.50

☐ **Lost in Space: Arrival 3** (of 12; Murry & Dutkiewicz) More intergalactic adventures with the family Robinson. Includes *Voyage to the Bottom of the Soul: Part Three.* $2.50

NEW ☐ **Lucifer's Hammer 1** (adaptation: Collins & Vilela) First of an ongoing series derived from Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle's science fiction novel. $2.50

☐ **Mack Bolan: The Executioner 2** (D & L Pendleton, Florea + Deodato) *War on the Mafia, Part 2:* Super-soldier Bolan returns home from war to discover that his family has been slaughtered, and embarks on a lone war against organised crime. . $2.50

☐ **Zamindar 2**: *Bad Connections, Part 2.* Derived from the screenplay by Clyde Ware and Ellen Jones, the story of the ultimate, computer-controlled battle between the forces of good and evil. $2.50

KITCHEN SINK

NEW ☐ **Apocalypse: The Eyes of Doom** (Giminez & Dal Pra) 1972, Vietnam. A grunt sees what he thinks is a five-year-old boy destroy two helicopters simply by staring at them. Twenty years later, a young man in a wheelchair arrives in LA, and triad members; heads begin to explode... The grunt, now a writer, is sure that this is the same boy he saw in 'Nam. 56pg $14.95

NEW ☐ **Cadillacs & Dinosaurs: Time In Overdrive** (hdbk; Chultz & Stiles) Collects eight **Cadillacs & Dinosaurs** stories; deluxe signed and numbered hardback. b&w 128pg .. $29.95

NEW ☐ **The Crow Collected** (O'Barr) Collected reprints of the series, including an eight-page colour section and seven covers, along with some new material. 224pg $15.95

NEW ☐ **Flesh Crawlers 1** (of 3; Rainey & Dubisch) First of a limited series, with the history and origins of the creatures whose sole aim seems to be to absorb everything human on Earth — and they've been at it for 20 years! $2.50

NEW ☐ **Madman: The Oddity Odyssey** (Allred) Collected comedy-pop culture series, with "flip-action

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FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

PRESENTS THE SUMMER 1993 COMICBOOK AUCTION

The organisers regret that, due to the unsuitability of the T.U.C. Congress Centre venue, the auction announced for Sunday, 4th July cannot go ahead as a live event. We have decided that, rather than disappoint our many sellers and supporters, we will run the auction intended for that day as a mail only event.

As always, we operate an open bidding system - simply telephone **081-298 1363** between 10.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday to find the current bidding on the lot(s) you are interested in and then place your bids. Bids on the following lots can be placed by telephone (written confirmation will be required) or by mailing them to **Flights of Fantasy, 82B Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW.** Bids and/or increased bids will be accepted up to 5.00pm on Friday, 9th July 193. Successful bidders will be notified during week ending Friday, 16th July 1993.

Except where otherwise indicated, the following list of lots gives anticipated selling prices (bracketed) for each lot. These are not reserve prices and items may sell for less.

All items are graded harshly and are in a minimum of very fine condition unless otherwise stated. Usual grading terms apply with the addition of the following abbreviations: *sl = slight; hvy – heavy; B&W = black and white interior pages; bksp stmp = book shop stamp; cnr knk = corner knocked; crs bcvr = creased back cover; crs cvr = creased cover; lbl on cvr = (price) label on cover; lbl stn bcvr = (price) label stain on back cover; lbl stn cvr = (price) label stain on cover; mkd bcvr = marked back cover; mkd cvr = marked cover; po bcvr = piece out of back cover; po cvr = piece out of front cover; pri stmp = (distributor's) price stamp; rld spn = rolled spine; rusty stpls = rusty staples; spit spn = split spine; stng = staining; tpd spine = taped spine; trn bcvr = torn back cover; trn cvr = torn cover; wro bcvr = writing on back cover; wro cvr = writing on cover; wtr bnt = water bent.* An asterisk (*) indicates a provisional grading as the item(s) have yet to be seen by the auctioneers. **Unless otherwise stated, no multiple lot contains duplicates.**

LIMITED EDITIONS

1: CURSE OF THE MOLEMEN [Kitchen Sink] Charles Burns; signed & numbered from 1,000 copies. *(£8-10)*

2: GRENDEL: THE DEVIL INSIDE [Graphitti] Matt Wagner & Bernie E. Mireault; signed & numbered from 1,200 copies. (sl crs to dust jacket) *(£10-12)*

3: THE MYTHOLOGY OF AN ABANDONED CITY [Graphitti] Jon J. Muth; signed & numbered from only 500 copies; includes limited edition CD. *Reserve price £40*

DC COMICS

4: Platinum Edition - SUPERMAN #75 Sealed & bagged limited edition #(10)824 *Reserve price £175*

5: DC SILVER AGE: Metal Men #8 (fn+), **Secret Six #2, Mystery in Space #61** (vg), **Rip Hunter, Time Master #6** (fn+), **Strange Adventures #182** (fn+) *Reserve price £15*

6: Platinum Edition - HARDWARE #1 *Reserve price £12*

7: 3-D BATMAN 1953 magazine sized one-shot; no glasses. (g) *(£25-30)*

8: CAMELOT 3000 #1 to 12 Complete series; Brian Bolland art throughout (#1 mkd cvr) *(£6-8)*

9: Signed Edition - DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING #1 Signed by Chris Bachalo. Limited edition (of 10,000) produced by Yesteryear Productions/Limited Treasured Editions; includes Certificate of Authenticity. Sealed with Seal of Authenticity. *Reserve price £10*

10: ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601 to 638 Anthology includes stories featuring Superman, Green Lantern, Deadman (Kelley Jones art), Catwoman, the Demon and many more! Great reading!!! *(£5-7)*

11: Collector's Edition - SUPERMAN #75 Still sealed in black bag. *(£5-7)*

12: SANDMAN #19 Rare misprint issue (pages 18, 19 & 20 in wrong order!) *(£2-3)*

13: BATMAN: YEAR ONE h/c Frank Miller story, David Mazzucchelli art *(£10-12)*

14: SUPERBOY [First series] - 15 issues (all pri stmp): #94 (g), #97 (g), #101 (g/wro cvr), 103 (g), #105 (g), 106 (g), 107 (g), #111 (f), 113 (g), #122 (g), #127 (vg-), #127 (vg+/centre pages loose), #130 (f), #134 (f), #137 (fn+/sl crs cvr) *Reserve price £17*

15: STRANGE ADVENTURES - 8 issues (all pri stmp): #154 (f), #164 (f), #169 (g), #170 (g), #173 (g), #178 (g/centre pages loose), #192 (vg-), #220 (g) *Reserve price £5*

16: FLASH #129 [1st series] (g/pri stmp) *Reserve price £10*

17: FLASH ANNUAL #1 [1st series] (g/pri stmp) *Reserve price £15*

18: INFINITY INC 29 issues - **#1** to **27** plus **#30** and **Annual #1**. includes art by Jerry Ordway & Todd McFarlane. (90% vfn or better) *(£5-7)*

TOYS

19: CAPTAIN AMERICA JETMOBILE [Corgi] mint in box (box fn) *(£6-8)*

20: SPIDER-MAN TRANSWRISTTOR RADIO [Janex] mint in box (box fn-/some sellotape) *(£4-7)*

U.K. COMICS

21: WARRIOR #1 to #26 plus MIRACLEMAN SPECIAL Full set includes work by Alan Moore, Alan Davis, John Bolton, Grant Morrison, Brian Bolland, Dave Gibbons, Steve Dillon, Cam Kennedy, Jim Baikie, John Ridgway, David Lloyd, et al. Introduces *V for Vendetta, Marvelman* (*Miracleman*), *Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Zirk*, etc. Bound in two gold stamped **Warrior** binders and autographed by Bolton, Dillon & Skinn. Issues 19, 20 & 21 are rare. *Reserv e price £16*

22: EAGLE 50 issues between volume 12 #21 (May 1961) and volume 17 #40 (October 1966) (All have been folded in half but, apart from that defect, 90% are fn or better) *(£15-20)*

23: UK COMICS 11 reprints of US material: **Captain 3-D #1** (vg-/no glasses), **Planet Comics #1** (p/po cvr) & **#3** (fn+), **Captain Video** #2 (fn/mkd cvr), **Bulletman #10** (fn+/rld spn), **Captain Midnight #43** (g), **Spaceman Comics** o/s (vg/rld spn), **Vic Torry** o/s (f), **Strange Worlds #19** (g), **Best of the West #3** (vg+/mkd cvr) & **#4** (fn-/mkd cvr) plus 2 Australian reprints of US material: **Silver Starr #2** (vg/mkd cvr) & **#4** (p/po cvr & pages 1 & 2) plus **Swift Morgan Space Comic #50** UK originated material (g) and **Tim Valour Comic #36** Australian originated material (vg/rld spn) *(£2-3)*

INDEPENDENTS, ETC

24: MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER #12 [Valiant] re-intro Turok, Dinosaur Hunter *Reserve price £25*

25: RAI #0 [Valiant] *(£2-3)*

26: SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM #2, 5, 6, & 8 [Valiant] *Reserve price £10*

27: DOCTOR SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM [Gold Key] 2 issues - **#18** (vfn-) & **25** (fn) *Reserve price £8*

28: JON SABLE, FREELANCE #1 to 38 [First] All Mike Grell story/art. *(£4-7)*

29:GRIMJACK #1 to 24 [First] inc Tim Truman art *(£3-5)*

30: AMERICAN FLAGG! #1 to 30 [First] Howard Chaykin story/art in #1 to 26; Alan Moore story in #21 to 27 *(£3-5)*

31: ADULTS ONLY [Eros] 25 comics including **The Young Witches, Time W*nk*rs, Ironwood, Liasons Delicieuses, I Want to be Your Dog, Butterscotch** and more! (90% vfn or better) *(£6-9)*

32: THE SPIRIT [Kitchen Sink - magazine] issues #29 (vfn-), 30 & 31 (crs bcvr) plus Australian reprints of **The Spirit Section #4** (fn/mkd cvr) & 5 (g/mkd cvr). Kitchen Sink #30 is the *Spirit Jam* issues including art by Milton Caniff, Harvey Kurtzman, Rich Corben, Frank Miller, John Byrne, Marshall Rogers, Brent Anderson, Bill Sienkiewicz and many more! *(£2-3)*

33: AC COMICS - Good Girl Art Quarterly Summer 1990 (#1) (mbc), **Fem Force #19** (vg/mkd cvr) and **She-Cat #1** (mkd bcvr) *(£1-2)*

34: COMIC CRUSADER STORYBOOK [Martin L. Greim] (vfn-/mkd cvr/mkd bcvr) Squarebound "graphic novel" published circa 1978; b&w, 164 pp. Includes illos by Jim Steranko, Rudy Nebres & Neal Adams; early work by Jerry Ordway and Gene Day; *Mr A* by Steve Ditko. *(£1-2)*

35: MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER #1 [Valiant] (no coupon/trading cards) re-intro Magnus *Reserve price £17*

36: THE BETTY PAGE 3-D PICTURE BOOK [The 3-D Zone] complete with glasses still attached. *Adults Only!* *(£3-5)*

37: FOUR COLOR #375 [Dell] (g/mkd cvr) Edgar Rice Burroughs' *John Carter of Mars*; origin of John Carter. *(£10-12)*

38: NEMESIS THE WARLOCK [Eagle] Complete mini-series; reprints from **2000AD**; Kevin O'Neill art *(£3-4)*

39: JUDGE DREDD: THE JUDGE CHILD QUEST [Eagle] Complete mini-series; reprints from **2000AD**; includes art by Brian Bolland, Mike McMahon, Ron Smith. *(£3-4)*

40: JUDGE DREDD'S CRIME FILE [Eagle] Complete mini-series; reprints from **2000AD**; includes art by John Byrne, Ron Smith, Colin Wilson, Ian Gibson, Dave Gibbons. *(£4-5)*

41: Platinum Edition - PREDATOR VS MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER #1 [Dark Horse/Valiant] *(£30-35)*

42: GROO THE WANDERER SPECIAL #1 [Eclipse] (fn+) *(£12-15)*

43: DEADWORLD: TO KILL A KING #1 [Caliber] Special edition; signed & numbered from 3,000. *(£4-5)*

44: SAN DIEGO COMIC CON COMICS #1 [Dark Horse] Includes art by Joe Quesada, John Byrne, Kevin O'Neill, Moebius and more! *(£6-8)*]

45: TALES OF THE GREEN HORNET #1 [Now] Includes limited edition hologram trading card. Still sealed in bag. *(£2-3)*

46: MISTER X [1st series] #1 [Vortex] Jaime & Gibert Hernandez art. *(£1-2)*

47: Platinum Edition - DARK HORSE PRESENTS: ALIENS [Dark Horse] *(£10-12)*

48: THE GREEN HORNET [1st series] #1 [Now] 1st printing (with cover by Jim Steranko) *(£5-7)*

49: Ashcan Edition: DINOSAURS FOR HIRE [Malibu] B&W; signed by writer Tom Mason. Distributed by Great Eastern Conventions. *Reserve price £25*

50: MIRAGE MINI COMICS [Mirage] Set of 13 comics including *Melting Pot* (Kevin Eastman & Eric Talbot); *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*; *Terrasaurs* (Mark Bode). Still factory sealed in wallet *(£4-5)*

51: Platinum Edition - ROBOCOP VS TERMINATOR #1 [Dark Horse] Complete with uncut bookmarks (Walt Simonson art) and two limited edition/numbered lithographs (one with Walt Simonson art, the other Frank Miller art). Still in original envelope although the envelope was badly torn when opened. *(£17-20)*

52: Glow in the Dark Edition - THE MAXX #1 *Reserve price £30*

53: [BRIAN LUMLEY'S] NECROSCOPE #1 [Malibu] 2nd printing; hologram cover *(£1-2)*

54: Gold Edition - UNITY #1 [Valiant] *Reserve price £35*

MISCELLANEOUS

55: LEGENDS OF ARZACH GALLERY #1 to 6 [Tundra] Each portfolio contains b&w art by Moebius as well as 8 full colour 8.5 x 11" plates featuring the work of various artists including: Paul Chadwick, Joe Kubert, Charles Vess, Leo Duranona, Will Eisner, Mike Zeck, Frank Brunner, Bill Sienkiewicz, Gahan Wilson, Tim Conrad, Angus McKie, Rich Corben, Sergio Aragones, Dean Motter, Brian Bolland, Jim Steranko and 32 others! (Still factory sealed) *(£10-15)*

56: THE DARK TOWER II: THE DRAWING OF THE THREE [Donald M. Grant] Limited hardcover edition of the Stephen King novel. Still sealed in original shrinkwrap *(£15-20)*

TRADING CARDS

57: Wizard Gold Card - SUPERMAN Cased with seal of authenticity intact. *(£10-12)*

58: TUROK CHROMIUM TRADING CARD [Valiant] Produced to publicise **Turok, Donosaur Hunter #1**. Sealed in Pro-Set Trading Card Frame. *Reserve price £8*

59: TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES III MOVIE CARDS & STICKERS [Topps] One box - still factory sealed *(£10-12)*

60: Wizard Gold Card - WETWORKS Cased with seal of authenticity intact. *(£7-10)*

61: BLOODSHOT CHROMIUM TRADING CARD [Valiant] Produced to publicise **Bloodshot #1** *Reserve price £5*

62: STAN LEE TRADING CARD [Marvel] Number 1 in a set of Marvel staff cards; autographed by Stan Lee *Reserve price £3*

63: SILVER SURFER PRISM TRADING CARDS [Comic Images] One box - still factory sealed *(£25-30)*

64: Wizard Gold Card - THE SPIRIT Cased with seal of authenticity intact. *(£5-7)*

65: THE SAVAGE DRAGON TRADING CARDS [Comic Images] One box - still factory sealed. *(£14-16)*

66: Wizard Gold Card - THE MAXX Cased with seal of authenticity intact. *(£7-10)*

67: GHOST RIDER II: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE TRADING CARDS [Comic Images] One box - still factory sealed. *(£15-17)*

68: MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER TRADING CARDS [Valiant] 8 strips of uncut cards (3 per strip) extracted from **Magnus, Robot Fighter** #1 to 8. The coupon for **Magnus, Robot Fighter** #0 has been removed. *(£2-3)*

69: HAVOK HOLOGRAM TRADING CARD [Marvel] High quality, limited edition promotional card issued to publicise **X-Factor** #92; same illustration as cover for that issue but smaller (regular trading card size). *Reserve price £20*

MARVEL COMICS

70: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #321 to 325 Complete *The Assassin Nation Plot*; Todd McFarlane art in all *(£9-12)*

71: DEATHLOK #1 to 18 *(£8-12)*

72: POWER MAN & [IRON FIST] 83 issues between #18 and #123; inc John Byrne art; no Sabretooth issues. 90% fn+ or better *(£15-20)*

73: THE THANOS QUEST #1 & 2 Complete prestige format mini series; Jim Starlin story, Ron Lim art *Reserve price £12*

74: WOLVERINE #10 Sabretooth vs Wolverine; Bill Sienkiewicz inks/cover *(£5-7)*

75: UNCANNY X-MEN #137 John Byrne art; death of Phoenix *(£3-5)*

76: UNCANNY X-MEN 2 issues - **#122** (wtr bnt) John Byrne art & **#193** John Romita jnr art *(£2-3)*

77: MARVEL FANFARE #1 to 4 includes the X-Men in *The Savage Land*, Iron Man, Daredevil, Deathlok; includes Mike Golden art, Paul Smith art *(£7-9)*

78: WARLOCK - Set of 11 comics covering Jim Starlin's original Warlock run. Comprises **Strange Tales #178** (vfn-/mkd cvr), **#179** (vg-), **#180** (vg+), **#181** (fn+) plus **Warlock #9** (vg/wro bcvr), **#10** (vg/mkd cvr), **#11** (vfn-/rld spn/cvr knk), **#12** (vfn-), **#13** (fn+/mkd bcvr), **#14, #15** (vfn-/mkd bcvr *Reserve price £10*

79: SAVAGE TALES #1 [1971] (fn+/mkd bcvr/sl trn bcvr) includes Conan - Barry Smith art; intro Man-Thing. *(£12-15)*

80: AVENGERS #1 (f) intro & origin of the Avengers. *(£75-80)*

81: RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS SET Comprising 6 issues: **Ghost Rider** #28, **Ghost Rider & Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance** #1, **Morbius** #1, **Darkhold** #1, **Nightstalkers** #1 and **Ghost Rider** #31. All still bagged. *(£3-5)*

82: MARVEL SUPER-HEROES [1st series] #13 (vg+/mkd cvr/mkd bcvr/pri stmp) includes 2nd appearance of Marvel's first Captain Marvel *(£5-7)*

83: MARVEL COLLECTOR'S EDITION #1 Flip-book produced as a premium for Charleston Chew. Features Wolverine - Sam Kieth art and Spider-Man. *(£7-10)*

84: UNCANNY X-MEN #4 (f) intro the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. *(£15-18)*

85: UNCANNY X-MEN #8 (g/pri stmp) intro Unus the Untouchable. *(£15-18)*

86: Signed Edition - UNCANNY X-MEN #300 Signed by John Romita jnr. Limited edition (of 13,100) produced by Yesteryear Productions/Limited Treasured Editions; includes Certificate of Authenticity. Sealed with Seal of Authenticity. *Reserve price £17*

87: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #7 (f/cen pgs loose) *(£18-20)*

88: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #14 (vg-/mkd cvr) intro the Green Goblin. *(£70-75)*

89 AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #298 Intro Venom (cameo); Todd McFarlane art *(£10-12)*

90: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 (vg-/pri stmp/splt spn/mkd bcvr) intro the Sinister Six. *(£37-40)*

91: MARVEL SUPER-HEROES KING-SIZE SPECIAL #1 (vg+/mkd cvr/tpd spn) *(£8-10)*

92: Gold Edition - VENOM #1 *Reserve price £30*

93: NEW MUTANTS #87 intro Cable; Rob Liefeld art. *Reserve price £15*

94: TALES TO ASTONISH - 2 issues: #41 (g) & #42 (f) *Reserve price £10*

95: FANTASTIC FOUR - 2 issues: #37 (f/pri stmp), #43 (g) *Reserve price £5*

96: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21 (vg-/pri stmp) intro the Beetle. *Reserve price £17*

97: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY ANNUAL #1 (vg/mkd cvr/pri stmp) *Reserve price £5*

98: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #96 (vg-) *Reserve price £5*

99: STRANGE TALES #110 (g) Intro Doctor Strange *Reserve price £25*

100: UNCANNY X-MEN 9 (vg-/mkd bcvr/pri stmp) *Reserve price £18*

101: AVENGERS #57 (fn-/pri stmp/mkd bcvr) intro the Vision *(£10-12)*

102: AVENGERS #58 (fn+/pri stmp/lbl stn cvr/mkd cvr/mkd bcvr) 1st origin of the Vision *(£7-10)*]

103: AVENGERS #100 (vfn-) Barry Smith art *(£18-22)*

104: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #27 (fn-/wro cvr) *(£32-35)*

105: INCREDIBLE HULK #102 (fn+/pri stmp/lbl stn cvr) 1st issue of current series; origin retold (£44-47)

106: INCREDIBLE HULK ANNUAL #1 (vg-/pri stmp/mkd bcvr) *(£5-7)*

107: UNCANNY X-MEN #50 (vg+/pri stmp) includes Jim Steranko art. *(£8-10)*

108: UNCANNY X-MEN #51 (fn+/pri stmp/lbl stn cvr/mkd bcvr) includes Jim Steranko art *(£10-12)*

109: CAPTAIN AMERICA #110 (fn+/pri stmp) Jim Steranko art; Captain America vs the Hulk *(£14-17)*

110: CAPTAIN AMERICA #111 (fn/pri stmp) Jim Steranko art *(£12-15)*

111: SILVER SURFER [1st series] #1 (vg/lbl on cvr/mkd bcvr/sl stng) *(£45-50)*

112: SILVER SURFER [1st series] #3 (vg+/pri stmp/mkd bcvr/sl stng) intro Mephisto *(£25-28)*

113: SILVER SURFER [1st series] #4 (fn-/pri stmp/sl stng/mkd bcvr) *(£33-36)*

114: SILVER SURFER [1st series] #6 (vfn-/pri stmp/sl stng) *(£22-25)*

115: SILVER SURFER [1st series] #7 (fn/pri stmp/mkd cvr/mkd bcvr/sl stng) *(£14-16)*

116: SILVER SURFER [1st series] #8 (fn/pri stmp/mkd bcvr/sl stng/rusty stpls) *(£7-9)*

117: SILVER SURFER [1st series] #9 (fn+/pri stmp/sl stng/rusty stpls) *(£8-10)*

118:SILVER SURFER [1st series] #13 (fn+/mkd bcvr/stng/rusty stpls) *(£5-7)*

119:MARVEL SUPER-HEROES [1st series] #18 (fn-/pri stmp/mkd bcvr) intro the Guardians of the Galaxy. *(£14-16)*

120: DAREDEVIL #52 (fn+/pri stmp/mkd bcvr) Barry Smith art. *(£2-3)*

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MALIBU

☐ **Dinosaurs For Hire 7** (Mason & Kirk + McCorkindale) Features a parody of Valiant's **Turok 1**, along with the debut of Turret, Hunter o' Dinosaurs. $2.50

NEW ☐ **Exiles 1** (Ultraverse imprint; Gerber & Pelletier + Branch) First of an ongoing series for Malibu's new imprint, Ultraverse. Dr Rachel Deming discovers that the seemingly benevolent Theta Virus — which endows the infected with super-powers — is fatal. She embarks on a global search for the infected Potentials — with the aim of treating them before their death. But Malcolm Kort has the same idea, only his aims aren't so noble... Polybagged with a free trading card. $1.95

☐ **Ex-Mutants 10** (Kanalz & McKinney + Branch) Sluggtown rings to the sound of the Ex-Mutant's seventh anniversary (debut: 1986). Meanwhile, a bounty hunter is in hot pursuit of the all-unknowing Mutants. $1.95

☐ **The Ferret 4** (R A Jones & Zachary + Branch) Things get a little more than complicated as Ferret fights Toxin to recover the antidote to the poison administered to him by... er, Toxin. Features appearances by Midnight Blue and The Witch. Available in news trade and direct editions, the latter with a free poster. $1.95/2.50

☐ **Freex 2** (Ultraverse imprint; G Jones & Herrera + Christian) Valerie leaves the Freex — and is instantly caught up by another super-powered Ultra, called Rush, who manipulates her into using her powers for his own ends. Plus, more about the stranger, Plug, and the history of the Freex team$1.95

☐ **Gravestone 2** (Powell & Derenick + Miller) Gravestone enlists his colleague, Eternal Man to avert the consequences of the night plague. Available in news trade and direct sale editions, each with different posters. $1.95/2.25

☐ **Hardcase 3** (Ultraverse imprint; Hudnall & Callahan) Hardcase is convinced that Choice is lying to the police — but he doesn't have a chance to find out, because three hired Ultras launch a bid to get her back, and they're prepared to pay any price to achieve it. $1.95

☐ **Man of War 5** (Mason & Danko + Brown) Killinger, a newly arrived supranormal, is a candidate for Protectors membership — but first, the team have got to discover exactly *what* he is. Expect the worst! Available in news trade and direct editions, the second with centrefold poster and different cover artwork. ..... $1.95/$2.50

☐ **Mantra 2** (Ultraverse imprint; Barr & Dodson) Lukasz is just coming to terms with being a woman when Warstrike, who killed his male body, makes an unwelcome appearance... Elsewhere, Boneyard despatches Notch and crew to retrieve the magical mask. $1.95

☐ **The Mighty Magnor 6** (Aragones and Evanier) Magnor and Trepid go one-to-one, and only *one* of them will survive the slugfest. $1.95

☐ **Necroscope Book II #1: Wamphyri** (adaptation: Powell & Kendall) Continued saga. Harry discovers that his assumption that Keogh and Dragonsani were dead is wrong, and that he must carry on with his battle against the legion Wamphri. Features the origin of Thibor Ferenczy, along with Harry's new, potent vampire-terminating weapon. $2.95

☐ **Prime 3** (Ultraverse imprint; Jones & Strazewski, Breyfogle) Features more details about Prime's origin. Kevin's search for his idol, Hardcase, leads him into an encounter with Prototype. $1.95

☐ **The Protectors 12** (R A Jones & Derenick + Deodato) Miss Fury heads up the team in a bid to rescue President O'Brien's grandson. There's just one problem: Black Fury has threatened to kill the child if there's any show of a rescue attempt. Meanwhile, Amazing Man begins to have doubts as to whether Miss Fury is up to the challenge. Available in news trade and direct editions, the latter with centrefold poster. $1.95/$2.50

NEW ☐ **Prototype 1** (Ultraverse imprint; Strazewski & Mason, Ammerman + Pascoe) First of an ongoing series. Jimmy Ruiz has got a nice life: a good job, plenty of money — and an exciting hobby, given that his do-gooding alter ego is Prototype. But when he undertakes his initiation mission Bob Campbell, the original Prototype, turns up to find out why he was "retired" after his battle with Prototype 2000. Includes a free trading card. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 1** (Barr & Purcell, Pallot, Moore + Palmer) Ongoing series from the new TV prog. Nog and Jake release a virus aboard the ship — which soon threatens to take control over all its systems. Available in news trade, direct and limited editions (with enhanced cover artwork). $1.95/2.50/19.95

☐ **The Strangers 3** (Ultraverse imprint; Englehart & Hoberg + Burgard) The team has reached a watershed, and has to decide which future it will choose for itself. But the members' time to consider the pros and cons is cut short by an attack from a tycoon's hitsquad, TNTNT — who have been despatched to abduct Candy. $1.95

MARVEL

SHIPPING AUGUST 3RD

☐ **The Airtight Garage 3** (of 4; Epic; Moebius) Conclusion of serialisation of the previously published graphic novel. . $2.50

☐ **Avengers West Coast 99** (Thomas & Ross + Dzon) Satannish's marriage of convenience with Hangman (and the Lethal Legion) continues - with the eradication of the Avengers as its endgame. $1.25

☐ **Cable 6** (Nicieza & Thibert) Cable's confrontation with Sinsear throws some light on the question of The Other's identity$2.00

☐ **Cage 19** (McLaurin & Pelletier + Turner) *The Dark, Part 2* (of 3). Cage faces his most difficult challenge so far - battling to regain control over himself. But the Bogeyman's possession of his soul remains seemingly unshakable - and now Chicago itself is imperilled. $1.25

☐ **Captain America 420** (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) *The Faustus Affair, Part 2:* Features the introduction of new villain Blazing Skull, plus more about the Viper-Nomad axis. Polybagged with a free issue of **Dirt**, which now includes the *Dear Girl* column, in which readers ask all they ever wanted to know about the opposite sex (- or their own sex - or does *Dear Girl* also cater for female heterosexual readers? Maybe a *Dear Boy* column is next up?) $1.25

☐ **Children of the Voyager 2** (of 4; Marvel UK Frontier; Abadzis & Johnson) Sam's rescue seems imminent when he persuades an omnipotent witch to help him escape from the Voyager - who still stands by his claim that Sam is his "child". $1.95

☐ **Daredevil 321** (Chichester & McDaniel + LaRosa) *Fall From Grace: Part 2* (of 7). Double indemnity for Daredevil as he faces his first confrontation with his doppelganger - while still in the throws of the dangerous virus that is incapacitating the city. But yet another foe awaits - an enigmatic sai (Japanese dagger) expert. Available in two editions, the second with a glow-in-the-dark cover. ..... $1.25/$2.00

NEW ☐ **Dark Guard 1** (Marvel UK; Abnett & Pacheco + Jiminez) This first of an ongoing series opens with the Time Guardian marshalling the heroes of the Marvel UK universe in a bid to defeat MySTECH. Foil-stamped cover. ... $2.95

☐ **Darkhawk 32** (Fingeroth & A Williams + Akin) Darkhawk enlists a restyled Savage Steel in a bid to stymie a terrorist operation. Elsewhere, Broderick Bazin's revenge campaign against the Powell family reveals psychotic elements in Bazin's personality — and he seems headed for some kind of breakdown. $1.25

☐ **Death's Head II & Killpower: Battletide II 3** (of 4; Marvel UK; Abnett & Lanning + Senior) Gabriel abandons his pacifist stance to save Death's Head and Killpower — who are pinned down by the Demon Horde. But it's make-up-your-mind-time for the angelic hero when he's asked to join the duo in their mission to terminate the Tide. $1.75

☐ **Greatest Battles of the Avengers** (tpbk; various) Collects **Avengers Annual** 10 (Claremont & Golden), **Avengers** 54, 55, 79, 160 and **Avengers Annual 7** (Starlin$15.95

☐ **Groo the Wanderer 105** (Epic; Aragones and Evanier) Groo's increased intellectual capacity merely serves to make his opponents' desire for his death more pressing... This issue, a cleric and a general fight over the right to kill off the bumbling hero. $2.25

NEW ☐ **Gun Runner 1** (of 6; Marvel UK Gene Pool; Abnett & Lanning + Clarke) First of Marvel UK's Gene Pool imprint opens with the eponymous hero — stranded on Earth — finding that an ancient enemy, long presumed dead, has resurfaced on the blue planet. $2.75

☐ **Immortalis 2** (of 4; Marvel UK Frontier; Vince & Buckingham) Wraith Tony accompanies Mortigan Groth to England, where they're persuaded by Dr Strange to help cure the vampiric Katherine. Just one snag: the only way to cure her is to kill her first — and Groth is her ex-lover. ... $1.95

☐ **Killpower: The Early Years 2** (of 4; Marvel UK; Barr & Nocon) Rescheduled. Features guest appearances from Codename: Genetix, whom Killpower encounters when dispatched into the past by the Time Guardian. $1.75

☐ **Marvel Comics Presents 138** (anthology) Featuring: *Wolverine: Rumble in the Jungle, Part 1* (of 4; Larsen & Marrinan); *Spellbound, Part 1* (of 5; Chase & Shoemaker + Potts); *Excalibur* (Figueroa & Wilson) and *Ghost Rider — Masters of Silence, Part 2* (of 6; Kaminski & Fry). $1.50

☐ **Namor 43** (Thomas & Wyman) Namor logs on for a slugfest with Stingray. $1.25

☐ **Nightstalkers 12** (Chichester & Van Wormer + Anderson) Anniversary issue, with enhanced cover art. Nightstalkers confront Death Row in a terminal encounter. DOA, meanwhile, busies himself with the revitalisation of Dracula. $1.75

☐ **Nomad 18** (Nicieza & Mays + Adams) *The Faustus Affair:* Nomad is abducted by Dr Faustus, brainwashed and sent into battle as field commander of Faustus' new Super Soldier Assassins. Storyline continued in **Captain America** 420 and **Nomad** 19$1.75

☐ **Original Ghost Rider 16** (Isabella & Mooney + Trapani) Reprints **Ghost Rider Volume 1** #8. ..... $1.75

☐ **Ren & Stimpy 11** (adaptation: Slott & Kazaleh) Derived from Nickelodeon's *Ren & Stimpy* animated TV series. Ren and Stimpy become lifeguards. $1.75

NEW ☐ **Saint Sinner 1** (Razorline; Barker & Lee + Douglas) First of Clive Barker's new superhero series published under the Razorline imprint. Focuses on Philip Fetter, a 16-year-old possessed by a malevolent spirit, who assumes the mantle of the "man who walks between good and evil, patron saint of lost souls". Prismatic cover. $2.50

NEW ☐ **The Screwtape Letters** (tpbk; adaptation by Hall & Redding) Derived from the C S Lewis classic novel, based on the correspondence between a senior demon and his apprentice nephew. $9.99

☐ **She-Hulk 56** (Eury & Oliffe) *To Die and Live in LA, Part 5* (of 6). Jennifer uncovers the source of her mysterious recent problems when she is reunited with her cousin, The Hulk. $1.75

☐ **Silver Surfer Annual 6** (Marz & Philips + Christopher) Features the debut of Legacy, most favourite son... Backing strips include stories on Terrax, Jack of Hearts and Ganymede. Plus, a Silver Surfer pin-up

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☐ **Spider-Man Classics 7** (Lee & Ditko) Reprints **Amazing Spider-Man** 6. . . $1.25

☐ **Spider-Man 2099 12** (David & Leonardi & A-Williamson) Miguel's life becomes more than a little complicated — thanks to Peter David's scripting. $1.25

☐ **The Thor Corps 2** (of 4; DeFalco & Oliffe) The Thor Corps does battle with the Invaders; features guest appearances by Machine Man 2020, the Midnight Wreckers and teenaged Franklin. $1.75

NEW ☐ **Thunderstrike 1** (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) Rescheduled new series focuses on the reprised Eric Masterton. Holografx cover. $2.95

☐ **Uncanny X-Men 305** (Lobdell & Romita, Jr) Professor X launches his Worldwide Mutant Underground; and the X-team loses one of its elders. $1.25

☐ **The Warlock Chronicles 4** (Starlin & Raney + Williams) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Magus sees an opportunity to kill Warlock — and take his place in the living world when the latter returns to the Soul World to enlist Magus in his bid to defeat the Goddess. $2.00

☐ **Web of Spider-Man 105** (Kavanagh & Savuik + Hudson) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Spider-Man battles Archangel — and the other "converted" heroes on the psychic plane. $1.25

☐ **X-Men 9 Marvel Milestone** (Lee & Kirby) Reprints **X-Men** 9. . . . . $2.95

SHIPPING AUGUST 10TH

☐ **Alpha Flight 125** (Furman & Broderick + Patterson) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Shaman persuades Nemesis, Wyre, Diamond Lil and Box to travel with him to the land of the dead. $1.75

☐ **Amazing Spider-Man 382** (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) The Hulk makes a guest appearance in a serendipitous story for the webbed superhero. $1.25

☐ **Avengers 16 Marvel Milestone** (Lee & Kirby + Ayers) Reprints **Avengers** 16 (featuring the first change in the team's line-up. $2.95

☐ **Barbie 34** (Trusiani & Delbo + Kaelberg) Barbie and Teresa make a breathless visit to a fortune-teller. What will Barbie's future incarnation be? A killer bimbo? $1.25

☐ **Darkhold 13** (Cooper & Tyler) The Redeemers encounter their most formidable opponents yet as the Missing Link bears down on them. Vicki's most cherished desire turns into her worst nightmare when she receives the much-wished-for Darkhold page. $1.75

☐ **Ghost Rider 42** (Mackie & Garney + Ivy) Ghost Rider struggles to release John Blaze from torture and imprisonment at the hands of Centurious. But Deathwatch — and others — must be dealt with first... Continues in **Ghost Rider & Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance** 15. . . . . $1.75

☐ **Groo: Festival** (tpbk; Aragones and Evanier) Collects **Groo the Wanderer**, issues 21-24. . . . . $10.95

☐ **Guardians of the Galaxy 41** (Gallagher & West + Montano) The Inhumans make it more than clear that they don't wish to be liberated by the Guardians — in fact, they're prepared to fight to prevent it... Loki and Starhawk, meanwhile, take their fight to 31st century Asgard. $1.25

☐ **Hyperkind 2** (Razorline; Burke & Cullins + Petrecca) More from Clive Barker's newly-empowered super-team, Paxis. $1.75

☐ **Lethal Foes of Spider-Man 2** (of 4; Fingeroth & McDaniel + Vancata) The Vulture, Doc Ock and the Answer steam into a three-way fight — with the incentive of the right to kill Spider-Man as the victor's reward. Plus, "indy" villainy with the bizarre Hardshell. $1.75

☐ **Marvel Super-Hero Special 15** (anthology) Featuring: *Volstagg's Mostly Greatest Adventure* (Simonson & Barney + Mahlstedt); *The Theft of Thor's Hammer* (Mantle & Heck); *Heart of Power* (Kraft & Kaminski, Pollard, Akin + Garvey). . $2.75

☐ **Morbius Revisited 3** (of 5; Mantle & Heck + McLeod) Reprints **Adventures into Fear** 29. . . . . $1.95

☐ **Night Thrasher 3** (Nicieza & Saltares) Thrasher makes a brief sojourn to break a drugs ring in former Wolverine territory, Madripoor. Later, he and Silhouette indulge in a little light slugfesting with Tiger Tyger and Aardwolf. $1.75

NEW ☐ **Psychonauts 1** (of 4; A Grant & Luke + Yazaki) First of a limited series opens with a psychically empowered group returning to shocking revelations on Earth — abandoned long ago after being struck by a plague of biblical proportions. Bookshelf format. 48pg $4.95

☐ **Punisher War Zone 20** (Hama & Nguyen) Shocked! Even Frank Castle is, when, during the course of a vigilante extravaganza, he sees something so outrageous that it out-'Nams 'Nam. . $1.75

☐ **Quasar 51** (Gruenwald & A Smith + Cabrera) Quasar returns to Project Pegasus with the Starbrand — and finds that the Anglemen (from Dimension A Minus) have launched an invasion. Features a guest appearance by the Squadron Supreme$1.25

☐ **Ravage 2099 11** (P Mills & Skinner, Miehm + Williams) Ravage unravels more of his family's history. $1.25

☐ **Sabretooth 3** (of 4; Hama & Texeira) Sabretooth has a paternity shock in store when he discovers more about his former relationship with Mystique. Slick Fanfare format. $2.95

☐ **Savage Sword of Conan 214** (adaptation; Thomas & Cruz) Based on Roland Green's sequel to Robert E Howard's **Red Nails**. $2.25

☐ **Secret Defenders 8** (Thomas & Coates + Hudson) Spider-Man, Dr Strange, the Scarlet Witch and Captain America battle Xandu and his Wondrous Wand of Watoomb for the fate of the world. $1.75

☐ **Silver Sable 17** (Wright & Butler) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Baron Von Strucker's eager to wreak vengeance on Crippler — and when he captures him things look bad for Crippler, especially with Sable and the New Outlaws busy in Somalia. $1.25

☐ **Sleepwalker 29** (Budiansky & Krantz) Sleepwalker's new incarnation seems irredeemable; now he's embarked on a *human*-killing mission. Features the return of Spectra. $1.25

☐ **Wild Thing 6** (Marvel UK; Jowett & Hitch) Nikki Doyle steams off in search of diversion in the form of an illegal virtual reality game — just when the world is about to be destroyed. It's left to Trout and Liddel (sounding like a superanuated firm of solicitors) to save the day; but the only thing *they* can come up with is to go in search of Nikki! $1.75

☐ **Wolverine 74** (Hama & Turner) Conclusion of the Australian Sentinel storyline, in which Wolverine and Jubilee mull over the probability of converting Sentinel to their way of thinking. . . . $1.75

☐ **Wonder Man 26** (Jones & Hamilton) Newly-converted Wonder Man undertakes his first cleanup mission, in Asgard. . $1.25

☐ **X-Factor 95** (Lobdell & ? + Milgrom) Random reveals a hidden agenda when he targets Polaris. $1.25

☐ **X-Men Adventures 12** (Macchio & Wildman + McKenna) FOX TV animation adaptation. The Muir Island saga unfolds as Rogue and Apocalypse meet in a fight to the death. Elsewhere, Archangel's fate is finally revealed. $1.25

☐ **X-Men Annual 2** (Nicieza & Weisenfeld) The X-team set sail for the Caribbean in order to meet enigmatic mutant Empyrean, who runs a home for sick mutants. But a question hangs over the fate of the mutants once he's got them in his island hideaway... 64pg $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 17TH

☐ **Avengers 367** (Harras & Epting + Palmer) The triangular love affair between Sersi, Crystal and the Black Knight is finally resolved in a storyline leading to an **X-Men/Avengers** crossover. $1.25

☐ **Bloodseed 2** (of 4; Marvel UK Frontier; Neary & Sharp + C Smith) Revelations about the planet where Bloodseed dwells — including the existence of a female version of the eponymous hero. $1.95

☐ **Conan 273** (Thomas & Docherty + Villagran) *Conan the Punisher:* Conan confronts the Lord of the Purple Lotus, whose peculiar talent it is to make men's lives nightmarish and "turn women into slaves of despair". $1.25

☐ **Conan Saga 79** (Thomas & Buscema + Chan) *Conan Comics Chronology:* Reprints **Conan** 43, 44 and 45. Magazine. . . $2.25

☐ **Cyberspace 3000 4** (Marvel UK; Russell & Tappin + Eve) Jen Cabre-Rios is haunted by visions of the past, imprisoned in cyberspace. Back in the real world, Dark Angel tells guest Silver Surfer why Galactus has appeared. $1.75

☐ **Dark Angel 15** (Marvel UK; Jaye & Larocca + Hine) Features an appearance by Death's Head II who, having consumed the anti-being, finds himself dominated by it as it tries to ally itself with the evil Techno Wizards. $1.75

☐ **Deadpool 3** (of 4; Nicieza & Madureira + Farmer) Introducing new kids on the block, the Executive Elite — and revelations about Deadpool's origin, including his links to Slayback. $2.00

☐ **Death³ 2** (of 4; Marvel UK; Abnett & Barras) Charnel's bid to destroy the Earth evokes a veritable horde of guest appearances: Ghost Rider, Kingpin, the Thing, Doc Ock, Iron Man and Death's Head II. $1.75

☐ **Doom 2099 10** (Moore & Broderick + Nyberg) In transit to Hong Kong, Doom (with the exception of Xandra, who's bound for Wakanda) get a message from a supposedly terminated space station. $1.25

☐ **Ectokid 2** (Razorline; Robinson & Skroce + Dvorak) Dex finds the key to his origin and realises that he's being pursued by the same malevolent agents who killed his fathe$1.75

☐ **Excalibur 70** (Lobdell & Slott + Buccellato) As Cerise's origin story wraps up, Excalibur teams up with the Starjammers to eradicate Cerise's Shi'Ar jailers. . . $1.75

NEW ☐ **Gene Dogs 1** (Marvel UK; Gene Pool; Freeman & Taylor + Baskerville) First of a limited series focusing on a super-powered group targeted on the MySTECH organisation. With four free trading cards. $2.75

☐ **G.I. Joe 141** (Hama & Batista + Baskerville) The GI Joes stand alone against the onslaught of the Cobra Commander-Megatron alliance. $1.25

☐ **Incredible Hulk 410** (David & Frank + C Smith) The continued SHIELD-Pantheon war storyline sees the Hulk springing an American, accused of spying, from a top security prison. Meanwhile, Bruce takes the decision to stop his therapy. $1.25

☐ **Mad Dog 6** (of 6; adaptation; Dorkin & Templeton, Purcell,,Akin & Albrecht) *Dogs of War.* Based on CBSTV's *Bob.* This two-in-one issue sees Jeff Austin wreaking revenge on those responsible for making him a Dog. Secondary strip has him doing the same with his creator. $1.25

☐ **Marvel Age 129** Features the first half of the X-Men Avengers crossover poster (Sharp and Farmer), a preview on the second tranche of the Heavy Hitters product line, including **Sachs & Violens** (David & Perez) along with extracts from **Biker Mice From Hell** and **Hellraiser/ Marshal Law.** . $1.25

☐ **Marvel Comics 139** (anthology) Featuring: *Wolverine: Rumble in the Jungle, Part 2* (of 4; Larsen & Marrinan); *Spellbound, Part 2* (of 5; Chase & Shoemaker); *The Foreigner* (Furman & Yaniger) and *Ghost Rider/Masters of Silence, Part 3* (of 6; Kaminski & Fry). $1.50

☐ **Marvel Tales 278** (DeFalco & Frenz + Rubinstein) Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man** 268. . . . . $1.25

Aliens ™ and (c) 20th Century-Fox Film Corporation.

☐ **Midnight Sons Unlimited 3** (Todd & Braithwaite, Saltares + C Smith) A spider-demon runs amok in New York City after being offered a page of the Darkhold. Spider-Man guests. 64pg $3.95
☐ **Morbius 14** (Wright & Wagner + Pepoy) Morbius undergoes some reactive therapy, confronted with his victims' families' stories. Features appearances by Martine, D'Spayre and Werewolf by Night. $1.75
☐ **Punisher Annual 6** (Mills & Hoover) Features the debut of a new super-villain. Polybagged with free trading card. . $2.95
☐ **Punisher 83** (Abnett & Lanning, Haynes + McKenna) A psychic pyromaniac sets New York City afire while still in prison: a head-scratching conundrum for action obsessive Frank Castle. $1.25
☐ **Spider-Man 39** (DeMatteis & Janson) *Light the Night, Part 2* (of 3). Spider-Man races the clock to prevent Electro pulling off a major crime in New York City. ... $1.75
☐ **Spyke 4** (of 4; Epic; Baron & Reinhold) Concluding issue of this limited series sees Spyke defending the Earth against invasion by non-specific aliens, while Muffy (!) recommences battle with Sonia, leader of the Squall forces. $1.95
☐ **Super Soldiers 7** (Marvel UK; Stevens & Currie + Riggs) Hauer embarks on a retro-adventure, set in London, 1983. Features a guest appearance by Nick Fury. Just one problem: why do the characters (and presumably the creators) think it's 1983 when circa *1973* fashions are featured on the cover? $1.75
☐ **Warlock and the Infinity Watch 21** (Starlin & Grindberg + Almond) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Thor discovers that stupidity is one of the universe's most powerful weapons as he tries to persuade Drax — none too gently — that attacking the Goddess's planet ain't a clever strategy for the unconverted. $1.75
☐ **What If? 54** (Furman & Senior) A *real teaser* here, folks! *"What if Death's Head II hadn't killed Death's Head.* True to form, guest "stars" crowd out the action: Captain America, the Fantastic Four, War Machine, Cage, etc. $1.25
NEW ☐ **Wolverine/Punisher: Damaging Evidence 1** (of 3; Potts & Erskine) Wolverine suspects that his erstwhile compadre is a few cobbles short of a street and intervenes to stop the Punisher from killing innocents. Features old-time Punisher villains, Sniper & Damage. $2.00
☐ **X-Men 25** (Nicieza & Kubert) Celebrating the title's 30th anniversary means splashing out on a wraparound, "state-of-the-art" hologram cover. As for the content: the X-Men face off Magneto in Avalon — sacrificing a teamster in the process. $3.50
NEW ☐ **X-Men 2099 1** (Moore & Lim + Kubert) The X-Men finally join their stablemates in 2099 reality and, of course, an opportunity to relaunch the entire team's characters. $1.75

SHIPPING AUGUST 24TH

☐ **Akira 37** (Epic; Otomo) Apocalypse in Neo-Tokyo as the city explodes, leaving few survivors... Mature readers. ..... $?.??
☐ **Avengers: Terminatrix Objective 2** (of 4; Gruenwald & Gustovich) Terminatrix sets the old Avengers up against the new pretenders. Haven't these comics characters ever heard of copyright? $1.25
☐ **Black Axe 7** (Marvel UK; Jowett & Perryman + Ramos) She, Black Axe and Afrikka find themselves confronting vibranium-armoured death-dealing machines when they battle Cardinal Technologies. Features a guest appearance by the Black Panther. $1.75
☐ **Conan Saga 78** (Thomas & Buscema, Chan & N Adams) Reprints **Conan** 43-45, plus more from the Conan Comics Chronology. Magazine format. b&w . $2.25
☐ **Dances With Demons 2** (of 4; Marvel UK Frontier; Jowett & Adlard + Ramos) James Owl struggles to escape his fate — and shape-shifter Manitou hits Berverly Hills — and those closest to Owl. $1.95
NEW ☐ **Daredevil: Man Without Fear 1** (of 5; Miller & Romita, Jr + Williamson) First of a limited series charts the origin of the central protagonist. Foil-enhanced cover, Fanfare format. ... $2.95
☐ **Death's Head II #11** (Marvel UK; Abnett & Coleby + Lanning) During his search for his creator, Dr Nicker, Death's Head II runs slap-bang into her latest invention — and his natural nemesis — Charnel. $1.95
☐ **Deathlok Annual 2** (Skolnick & Hebert + McKenna) Introduces new key Marvel Universe player, the Tracer. Polybaged with a free "rookie" trading card. $2.95
☐ **Deathlok 28** (Wright & Kobasic + Vancata) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. In a storyline flagging the return of the original character later this year, the Goddess checks in on Deathlok's confrontation with Timestream. $1.75
☐ **Feud 4** (of 4; Epic; Baron & Nelson) Conclusion. Throckmorton and the Dust Devils step in to save the day while the Stoker and the Skids battle on. But suddenly, a new menace appears: the Mammals$1.95
NEW ☐ **Genetix 1** (of 6; Marvel UK Gene Pool; Marx & Lanning, Gascoine + Riggs) First of a new Gene Pool Marvel UK imprint opens with the Genetix embarking on a mission to find their real origins. Wraparound cover, polybagged with 4 trading cards. $2.75
☐ **Hellstorm 7** (Nieves & Beachum) Hellstorm faces a moral dilemma: whether to save the life of an abused girl or the reputation of a brave priest. $2.00
☐ **Hokum & Hex 2** (Razorline; Lovece & A Williams + Lanning) Assuming that Trip Munroe is dead, Felon Bane commences his invasion of the Earth. But Trip, although alive, isn't ready to deal with Bane *and* and a new adversary, the Analyser. $1.75
☐ **The Incomplete Death's Head 10** (of 12; Marvel UK; Furman & Senior) Tuck engages in terminal combat with the Hob-Monster. Features a guest appearance by the Fantastic Four. $1.75
☐ **The Infinity Crusade 5** (of 6; Starlin & Lim + Milgrom) The converted and unconverted continue their battle with the Goddess's strategy hanging in the balance. Meanwhile the Hulk, thinly disguised as a living meteor, steams towards the scene of the war — and Thanos prepares an assault on the Goddess's planet from his star destroyer spaceship. $2.50
☐ **Meteor Man 3** (of 6; Coye & Hubbard, Walker + Holdredge) Rescheduled. Spider-Man steps in with some counselling when Reed's confidence takes a nose-dive. $1.25
☐ **New Warriors 40** (Nicieza & Robertson + Mahlstedt) Launching a new storyline, with key roles for Firelord, Air-Walker and Super Nova. Available in two editions, the second with foil-enhanced cover. $1.25/2.25
☐ **Punisher Back to School Special 2** (various) Frank Castle investigates the lucrative steroid-dealing business run by pumped-up workout addicts. $2.95
☐ **Punisher 2099 9** (Mills & Skinner, Morgan + Palmiotti) Jake Skinner's emotional life is torn apart once again — not long after the slaughter of his entire family. $1.25
☐ **Spectacular Spider-Man 205** (S Grant & Buscema) Chronicling the inexorable rise of Tombstone through New York's criminal underworld. $1.25
NEW ☐ **Strange Combat Tales 1** (of 4; Epic; Singer & Stofega + Mathews) First of a new revisionist limited series opens with the assertion that the Germans used "voodoo soldiers incapable of dying" to fight World War I... and the only hope for civilisation is Julian Drake, a falsely-imprisoned mystic. Mature readers. . $2.50
☐ **William Shatner's Tekworld 14** (Marvel/Epic; Goulart & Sullivan) *Teklords:* Introducing a new storyline derived from William Shatner's novel, in which Jake prepares to deal with the advent of a cybernetic plague. $1.75
☐ **X-Force 27** (Nicieza & ? + ?) The New Mutant Liberation Force and X-Force steam into a head-to-head slugfest. $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 31ST

☐ **Barbie Fashion 34** (Slate & Webb) Barbie saves a kitten from death by train — and it catches a thief trying to steal her bag. But never mind the action, what's the girl *wearing*? $1.25
☐ **Dr Strange 58** (Isherwood) Dr Strange is determined to restore the cosmic equilibrium, but finds that he's got to deal with Urthuna, first. $1.75
☐ **Fantastic Four 381** (DeFalco & Ryan + Bulanadi) The FF and Doom enter a marriage of convenience and, during a confrontation with alien villain the Hunger, a key character is terminated. $1.25
☐ **Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance 15** (Mackie & Manley) *Road to Vengeance: The Missing Link, Part 4* (of 6). Centurious and Lilith conspire to eradicate the Blood. Features Blaze's restyled costume and revitalised powers, which appear just in time for his confrontation with the villainous Vengeance. $1.75
☐ **Iron Man 297** (Kaminski & Hopgood + Mitchell) Iron Man, M.O.D.A.M. and Omega Red enter into a three-way battle located in a nuclear-friendly zone. $1.25
☐ **Lawdog 6** (Dixon & Henry + Strangeland) Lawdog meets up with Dr Freen and the Cleanies — who decide that he's an ideal candidate for donating body parts — even involuntarily! $1.95
☐ **Marvel Comics 140** (anthology) Featuring: *Wolverine: Rumble in the Jungle, Part 3* (of 4; Larsen & Marrinan); *Spellbound, Part 3* (of 5; chase & Shoemaker + Potts); *Captain Universe* (Slott & Wylie + Collazo) and *Ghost Rider/ Master of Silence, Part 4* (of 6; Kaminski & Fry). $1.50
☐ **Marvel Universe Master Edition 35** (various & Pollard + Rubinstein) Backgrounders on Hellstrom, Omega Red, the Beyonder and Spider-Man 2099, along with details on the Avengers West Coast's fourth line-up. $4.95
☐ **Marvel Knight 55** (Kavanagh & Fry + Ivy) Featuring the introduction of Moon Knight's nemesis, Sunstreak. $1.75
☐ **Punisher War Journal 59** (Dixon & Kwapisz) *The House that Hate Built, Part 1:* Chronicling the meeting — and parting — of Frank Castle and his dog. $1.75
☐ **Silver Surfer 85** (Marz & Jamner + Christopher) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. The Surfer finds himself targeted by Wonder Man and Storm — under the Goddess's direction. Available in two editions, the second of which is polybagged with Dirt magazine$1.25/2.95
☐ **Thor 467** (Marz & Zick + DeCarlo) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Thor's mental state plummets while the universe disintegrates around him. Elsewhere, Lady Sif confronts Pluto in Olympus. $1.25
☐ **Venom: Funeral Pyre 3** (of 3; Potts & Lyle + Rubinstein) Conclusion. Venom and the Punisher have a few differences to settle before they unite to deal with the new threat, Pyre. $2.95
☐ **X-Force Annual 2** (Nicieza & various) Featuring the introduction of X-treme, the amnesiac mutant on the run, who only knows that he must hunt down the unknown Neurotrap to survive. Polybagged with "rookie" trading card. $2.95
☐ **X-Men Classic 88** (Claremont & Romita, Jr + Green) Reprints **Uncanny X-Men** 184. ..... $1.25

METAL MAMMOTH

☐ **Heavy Metal November 1993** International science fiction and fantasy magazine. Adult. $3.95

MILLENIUM

☐ **H P Lovecraft's Cthulhu: Festival of Death 2** (of 3; adaptation: Thomas & Norman) Re-animation serum inventor Herbert West brings a murdered cultist back to life in order to find the perpetrator of a series of killings in Arkham. But ineptitude sends the project awry — West accidentally revitalises his own zombie brothers — and they launch an attack on Miskatonic University. $2.50

MIRAGE STUDIOS

NEW ☐ **Bioneers 1** (Next imprint; Farley) An illegal eight-year-old experiment merging human and animal tissues has borne fruit, and the government-financed Black Programmes are now a source of contention in the media. Team Dragonfighters is set up to counter the "extraordinary threat" the experiments' results pose to national security... Enhanced cover, with two bound-in trading cards. ... $2.75
NEW ☐ **Stupid Heroes 1** (Next imprint; Laird) First of a new series from Peter Laird (**Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** co-creator) based on the lives of superhumans — some of whom are suffering from a rare syndrome, *dementia dominus*. Introducing super-fighter Scott Poundstone, SWAC trouper Alana Richardson and Craig Murphy, aka Cinder, who are all somehow linked to a mysterious project called TARBARBY. Enhanced cover, with two bound-in trading cards. ... $2.75
☐ **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 62** (Eastman & Laird, Lawson + Aiken) *City at War: Part 13* (of 13). The conclusion of the *City at War* storyline heralds a sea-change for the cast of characters. b&w $2.25
☐ **Plastron Cafe 5** (anthology) Black & white anthology title featuring: *Casey Jones* (Eastman & Veitch); *North by Downeast* (Sakai); *Puffs* (? & ?) and *Bioneers — Preview, Part 2* (Farley). $2.72
NEW ☐ **Xenotech 1** (Next imprint; Dooney & R Jones) First of an ongoing series focusing on the interdimensional invasion defence team, Xenotech. Not superhumans, but humans with armour which endows them with superhuman powers, which amounts to the same thing... Enhanced cover, with two free bound-in trading cards. $2.75

NOW COMICS

NEW ☐ **Fright Night 3-D Summer Special** (Piron & Qwar + Strangeland) One-off tale about a vengeance-driven witch's pursuit of her enemies. Free 3-D Glasses. $1.95
☐ **The Green Hornet 26** (Fortier & Zircher + Mowry) The Tong (here, "Chinese Mafia") continue their strategy of taking control of the city through gang warfare. Only the Hornet and Kato remain to oppose them .. $1.95
☐ **Kato III #1** (of 2; Baron & Bilau) *The Cult of Personality:* Kato fails to save a man who sets himself on fire — and discovers later that he was a member of an arcane mind-bending cult. Making up his mind to disempower its leader, Kato sets about infiltrating the cult. $2.50
NEW ☐ **Married... With Children: Quantum Quartet 1** (of 4; Tuttle & White, Richmond + Mowry) First of a new satirical series based on an amalgam of two popular TV dramas. $1.95
☐ **Mr T and the T-Force 3** (Baron and Breyfogle) With new creative team, Mike Baron (**Punisher**) and Norm Breyfogle (**Batman**). Available in newstrade and direct editions. $1.95
☐ **Ralph Snart Adventures Volume 5 #4** (Hansen) Includes a free Snart trading card. Newstrade and direct sale editions. . $2.50
☐ **Sting of the Green Hornet** (tpbk; Fortier & Butler + Mowry) Collected four-issue series. 124pg $12.95

RIP OFF PRESS

☐ **Post Brothers 33** (Howarth) *Distortion For All:* Ron touches down on the planet Xavier — and almost immediately bumps into

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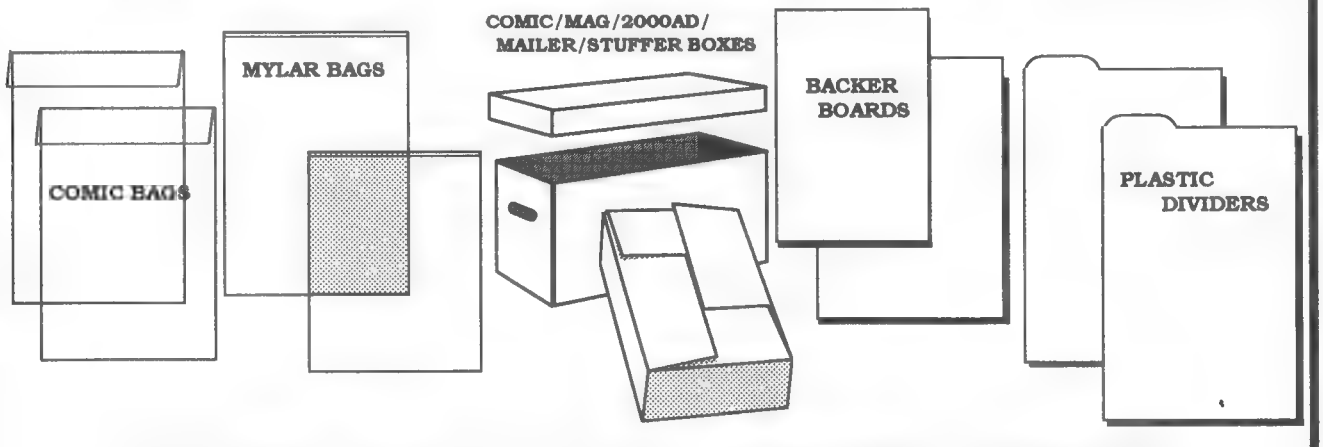

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TOPPS COMICS

☐ **Jason Goes to Hell 2** (of 3; Mangles & Rubio + Nunis) Rescheduled. *Friday the 13th Part IX:* Jason's heart takes possession of Robert Campbell, host of TV's *American Casefile*... Polybagged with three film-still trading cards. Mature readers. $2.95

☐ **Jurassic Park 4** (of 4; W Simonson & Kane + Perez) Concluding issue of the film adaptation. Available in newstrade and direct editions (with 4 hologram cards). $2.50/2.95

☐ **The Last Action Hero 3** (Petrucha & Moore) Conclusion of the film adaptation. With three trading cards, artwork by Zeck and Moore. $2.95

☐ **Ray Bradbury Comics 4** (adaptation) Featuring two stories based on the Ray Bradbury novels: *The City* (Mignola) and *Usher II* (Wilber). Polybagged with three Mars Attacks! trading cards (the first new Topps Mars Attacks! cards for twenty years). $2.95

☐ **Secret City Saga 4** (Thomas & Ditko) It seems as if the Ninth Men, General Ordiz and Dr Roag's dream has come true — and that means that mankind's future will be a nightmare. Polybagged with three trading cards. Cover: Ditko and Perez. $2.95

NEW ☐ **The TeenAgents 1** (Busiek & Vokes + J Beatty) First of an ongoing series introduces the TeenAgents — four controversial teenage heroes whose task it is to defend a city threatened by monsters. Polybagged with three trading cards. $2.95

VALIANT

☐ **Archer & Armstrong 16** (Perham & Wendell + Garzon) The eponymous heroes gamble with their lives on the way to Las Vegas. $2.50

☐ **Bloodshot 10** (VanHook & Perlin + J Dixon) Blooshot pursues a "tunnel rat" — a 'Nam vet who has committed a series of murders along the tunnels of Chu Chi.$2.25

☐ **Eternal Warrior 16** (Moretti & Guichet) *Empirical Dynasty: Prologue:* Gilad races time to snatch Bloodshot away from Iwatsu's son before he reveals the secrets of his powers. Continues in **Secret Weapons** 3 and concluded in **Bloodshot** 11. .. $2.25

☐ **Harbinger 23** (Fontenot & Simpson, Mayo + Beccari) *Twilight of the Eighth Day, Part 1* (of 3). Peter is faced with a dilemma when he finds out that his colleagues are being manipulated. $2.50

☐ **The H.A.R.D. Corps 12** (Michelinie & Leeke + Autio) The Otherman's scheme to destroy the team through internecine fighting continues apace. $2.25

☐ **Magnus Robot Fighter 30** (Ostrander & Calafiore + Reese) The Malevs proceed towards South Am — but find that Magnus is there first. How long he can survive without the support of the Future Force and Rai remains to be seen. $2.25

NEW ☐ **The Second Life of Doctor Mirage 1** (Layton & Chang + Branch) Master Darque eradicates a team of parapsychologists — but soon discovers that it might have been a bad move for his continued survival when Doctor Mirage manifests himself. Includes a free, bound-in poster. $2.50

☐ **Rai & the Future Force 15** (Ostrander & Chen + Bolinger) Rai's Future Force flies to Magnus's aid when they get the call from South Am — but they soon doubt they can do anything to help him at all. $2.25

☐ **Secret Weapon 3** (St Pierre, Wiacek + Cavaliero) *Empirical Dynasty Part 1* (of 3). Gilad, Archer & Armstrong, Geoff, Livewire and Stronghold battle the Iwatsu Corporation and its army of Bloodshot clones, Speedshots. Story concludes in **Bloodshot** 11. ..... $2.25

☐ **Shadowman 19** (Hall + J Dixon + Cavaliero) Tyler and the Aerosmith team unite with Shadowman for the tourist route in Master Darque's New Orleans. ... $2.50

☐ **Solar, Man of the Atom 27** (VanHook & Grau + Palmiotti) *Awake to the Dreamtime:* Solar takes time out to get some advice from Australia's indigenous race on how to make himself whole again. $2.25

☐ **Turok: Dinosaur Hunter 5** (Truman & Elliot + Gonzalez) Turok's reunion with Andar provokes a meditation on the meaning of his life. $2.50

☐ **X-O Manowar 22** (Gonzalez & Karounos + Ryder) Randy finds that controlling the armour isn't so easy... And in South America, Aric faces his biggest challenge yet — without the armour, of course. $2.25

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ **Animerica Vol 1:6** (anthology magazine) Manga strips, interviews, news & reviews. Magazine. b&w 64pg $4.95

☐ **Battle Angel Alita Book Two #5** (of 7; Kishiro) Alita decides to break the law and help the now fugitive Hugo escape the Tiphares. b&w $2.75

NEW ☐ **Crying Freeman: Abduction in China** (gn; Koike & Ikegami) Freeman travels to Chinatown, LA, to resolve an abduction case. But he is captured by a mercenary organisation leader, who is sexually obsessed with him... Adult, N, V. b&w 276pg $16.95

☐ **Crying Freeman Part Five #10** (of 11; Koike & Ikegami) Freeman has no choice but to come out of hiding to save his first lover's life —and then hand himself into the police, who obligingly extradite him to Hong Kong and freedom. Adult. b&w $2.75

☐ **Maison Ikkoku 3** (of 7; Takahashi) Yusaku makes a fool of himself after getting drunk — confessing undying love for his landlord, Kyoko — and the locals aren't going to let him forget it. b&w 40pg . $2.95

☐ **Pixy Junkett 2** (of 6; Pure) Two boys accidentally pick up a pixy, and when an odd member of the royal family captures her, they feel obliged to go to her rescue. b&w $2.75

☐ **Ranma 1/2 Part 2 #8** (Takahashi) Ranma, in girl form, conspires with her partner to win the figure-skating competition — by breaking the ice! b&w 40pg . $2.95

☐ **Sanctuary Part II #4** (of 5; Fumimura & Ikegami) Hojo succeeds in turning round the hitmen who've come to assassinate him — persuading them to hit his rival yakuza boss instead. Mature readers. b&w 72pg . $4.95

☐ **Silent Morbius Part 4 #2** (of 5; Asamiya) Under the influence of a mysterious drug, Katsumi's boyfriend, Roy, kills his best friend... b&w $2.75

WARP GRAPHICS

☐ **Elfquest: New Blood 8** (Lee & Beatty + Kato) *Invasion Infestation:* The Wolfriders confront an army of "cute, blue-skinned creatures" from a parallel dimension. Includes centrefold poster. $2.00

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■ **Top Ten Soho**, Unit 3, 9-12 St Anne's Court, Soho, London W1V 3AX. Mon - Sat 10 - 6; Sun 12 - 5. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, STO) 071-734 7388

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■ **Altered Images**, 6 The Arcade, High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1ET. Mon-Wed & Fri 10-5.30; Thurs 10-6.30; Sat 9-6. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG) 081 770 3815

■ **Andy's Comic Cavern**, Windsor Open Market (back of Woolworth's), Bachelors Acre, Windsor. Sats only 7.30-4.00 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) Free delivery for Windsor & Slough area. 0753 853381

■ **Atomic Comics**, 1112 High Rd, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10 -6 excl Fri 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art) 081-597 8547

■ **Calamity Comics**, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, Sega & Nintendo game cartridges, videos) 081-427 3831

■ **Dynamic Comics**, Units 43-47, In Shops Centre, 68 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, merch) phone & fax 081-681 2597

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-7; Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 081-298 1363

■ **Gary's Book & Comic Stall**, Site A65, The High Street, Walthamstow, London E17. Thur + Fri 10-5; Sat 8-5.30. Tube: Walthamstow Central (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, annuals, children's books)

■ **Graphically Speaking**, 49 Roman Road, London E2. Mon-Wed & Sat 11-6; Thur-Fri 11-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, Brit, ind, STO, gn) 081 983 4602

■ **Krypton Komics**, 252 High Rd, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur-Fri 9.30-7; Sat 9-6. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO) 081-801 5378

■ **Readers Dream**, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham (near Heathrow airport) Middx TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 excl Wed - closed (imp, back, gn, STO) 081-844 0780

■ **Skinny Melink's**, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE13. Mon-Thur 11- 6.30; Fri 11-7; Sat 10-6.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, ind s-p, u/g, gn, STO) 081-318 0499

NEW **South London Book Centre**, 18-19 Stockwell Street, Greenwich, London SE10 9JN. Sat & Sun 9am-5.30pm (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, 2nd hand & new SF-horror-fantasy novels, art bks, bargain bks, remainders) 081 659 9714 or 081 853 2151

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10-7; Thur-Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-3 (later by appointment). (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, tv-film & fantasy, gn, STO) 081-449 5535

■ **They Walk Among Us**, 30 Union Court, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, fantasy/s-f/horror books, sub-culture, STO, wants lists welcomed) Phone/fax 081 948 8476

■ **Time Trek**, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 081 313 0677

■ **Westside Comics**, 396 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0EL. Mon-Sat 10-6, late Thurs-Fri to 6.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). 081-813 5019

SOUTH EAST

■ **Asylum Comics**, t/a Grosvenor News, 64 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AS. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 6.00, Sun 9.00 - 2.00. (imp, back, gn, frgn, ind, Brit, STO, wants lists welcome) 0892 521827

■ **American Comic Enterprise**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts) 0206 561 912

■ **Cartoon Shop**, Upper Galleries, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, Essex. Mon - Wed & Sat 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0268 534194

■ **Cartoon Shop**, 21-22 Talza Way, Lower Ground Floor, Victoria Circus Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0702 613021

■ **The Comic Rocket**, 75a Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Mon-Wed 10 - 4.30; Thur-Fri 10 - 7.30; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, u/g, STO) 0892 518771

■ **Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements St, Oxford. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO) 0865-723680

■ **Excaliber Comics**, 24 The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4JG. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, Brit, STO, RPG, videos) 0243 537070

■ **Fantastic Store**, 14 Gardner St, Brighton BN1 1PL. Mon-Wed 9-6; Thur 9-8; Fri-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, ind, s-p, u/g, gn, Brit, STO) 0273 25300

■ **Incognito Comic Shop**, 14 Starnes Court, Union St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv related merch) 0622-683642

■ **Paperback Reader**, 82 Queens Road, Hastings, TN34 1RL. Mon-Sat (closed Wed) 9-5.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO, assorted 2nd hand ppbks) 0424 446749

■ **Siegi's Comics & Bags**, Unit 3, 6 Orange St, Canterbury, Kent. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, tv SF, gum cards, sf memorabilia) 0227 470840

■ **Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

MIDLANDS

■ **Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

■ **Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484122

■ **Arrival Comics & Books**, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, horror, western, pulp, vintage glamour & pop) 0902-313 660

■ **Bookworm**, Unit 3, 33-39 Tower St, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon-Sat 11-4 (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

■ **Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle St, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10 - 6. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0473 233017

■ **Comic Showcase**, 17 Norfolk Street, Cambridge. Mon - Fri 11.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO) 0223 69206

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0234 218984

■ **Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0462 [illegible]0018

■ **Demon Comics**, 12 Berrington Street, Hereford HR4 0BJ. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0432 358355

■ **Fantastic Store**, 6 Suffolk St, Queensway, Birmingham, B1 1LT. Mon-Fri 9.30 - 6.00; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 021 643 3667

■ **Fantastic Store**, Virgin Megastore, 6-8 Wheelergate, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0602 476246

■ **Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

■ **The Final Frontier**, 29 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 4LD. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) Established 1984 0533 514347

■ **Ground Zero**, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

■ **Magic Labyrinth**, 34-36 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1RD Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, frgn, merch, s-p, STO, RPG) 0533 518178 fax:0533 518179

■ **Mephisto Comics**, 81 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3RD. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 0603 762762

■ **Nowhere Comics**, Units 7-8 Guildhall Mews, Goodall St, Walsall. (top end of market) Mon-Thur 10.30-5.30, Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, videos) 0922 643352

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 021 643 0143

■ **Outer Limits**, 4 The Broadway, Bedford, MK40 2TH. Tues-Sat 9-6, Mon 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0234 358581

■ **Outer Limits**, 12 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP. Mon-Sat 9 - 6; Thurs late night until 8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0582 422082

■ **Outer Limits**, 43 Kettering Road, Northampton. Mon-Sat 10.00 -6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0604 601555

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester. Fri - Sat only 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, STO-monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, Virgin Megastore, 1st Floor, 98 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6SX. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9.00 - 6.00; Tues 9.30 - 6.00; Thurs 9.00 - 8.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, tv-film & fantasy, gn, merch, STO)021 236 5735 fax: 021 236 8153

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG) 0743 365192

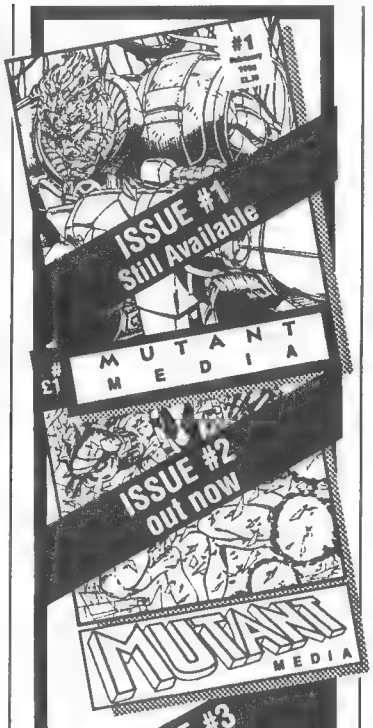
■ **Zoom Comics!!**, Unit 3 Inshops Centre, 65 South Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1QX. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 021 354 7500

NORTH WEST

■ **Arcadia Comics** , 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7PT (next to Comet). Mon-Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror & sf mags and novels, Doctor Who, Trek, ltd merch, ltd gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures) 061 339 1816

■ **Box 5 News**, 19 Blakey Moor (near Waves), Blackburn, Lancs BB2 1LL. Mon - Sat 7.00am - 6.00pm (imp, Brit, STO, g-n) 0254 698020

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)



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■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 061 273 6666

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool. 10 - 5.30 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat all year; Mon & Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun + Mon. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, limited gn, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, limited gn, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items. 0772-204287

■ **The Time Tunnel**, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

■ **Worlds Apart**, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington (city centre), Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10-6; Wed 12-6 (imp, back, ind, merch, s-p, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy film mags) 051 707 0839

NORTH EAST

■ **Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon-Sat 10-6; late Thur-Fri to 8 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks) 0482 29787

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, bags boxes & accessories) 0642 249143

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 8, Regency West Mall, Princes Regent Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, boxes bags & accessories) 0642 617241

■ **Dells Comic & Book Stalls**, 129 Kirkgate Market, Bradford 1. Mon-Sat 9-5 excl Wed 9-3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

■ **Happy Planet**, Rocks Off, 85 Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 2RD. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.30, Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, s-p, Brit, STO) 0274 736 292

■ **Hysteria Comics**, Unit 2, The Arches, Park Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 7PH. Mon-Sat 9-5 limp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, film mags) 0429 236952

■ **Nu Earth Comics**, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, art bks) 0904 611 461

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

■ **Odyssey**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0532 426 325

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, Star Trek items) 0742 758905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps) Establ 1965.

NEW **Voyager One**, 87 Parkgate Chambers, Borough Road, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 1RR. Mon-Sat 10-5 excl Weds closed. (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) 0325 382037

WEST COUNTRY

Comics & CDs, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244655

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon-Fri 11.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0722 331107

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Mon 12-5.30; Tues-Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film-tv mags + merch) 0452 309 533

■ **Joy's Comics**, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6. (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn) 0305 269737 (after 6pm 833304)

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0752 257800

■ **Maelstrom Comics** (within Apostrophe Records), 66 Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-6. (imp, back, s-p, small merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO) 0272 633523

■ **Purple Haze**, 58 Eastlake Walk, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL1 1BX (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0752 254136

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

■ **Wonderworld**, Unit 2, Bevois St, Southampton S01 1JD. Tues-Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 234815

■ **Wonderworld**, 25 Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3SQ. Tues-Sat 10-2, 3-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0705 833 272

ISLE OF WIGHT

■ **Astounding Comics**, 61 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1UL. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 525320

WALES

Cardiff Fantasy Centre, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos; establ 12 yrs) 0222 563005

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film/tv mags, RPG, Games Workshop stockists) 0792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

■ **Journey Into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Tues - Fri 11.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO, indie records & cds)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

AKA Books & Comics, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ. Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

■ **Black Hole Comic Shop**, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

■ **City Centre Comics**, Argyle Shopping Centre, 28 Argyle Street, Glasgow G2 8AD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00. (back issue specialists) 041-632 2786 (after 6pm)

■ **Dead Head Comics**, 44 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW. Mon - Wed, Fri, Sat: 10 - 6.30; Thurs 11 - 7.30; Sunday 12 - 4. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 031 226 2774

■ **Earth 2 Comics** Candleriggs Market, 71-73 Albion St, Glasgow G1 1RB. Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Sun 10-5.30. (back issue specialists, gn, SF bks, ind) 041-647 6810 (after 6pm)

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 2 - 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30, excl Thurs till 6.30. (imp, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 031-225 8613

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon - Wed 10 - 5.30; Thurs + Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO) 041 331 1215

■ **Future Shock**, 89 Byres Road, Partick, Glasgow G11. Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 1-5 (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, SF & horror gn & hbk, film bks & mags, artwork, jewellery) 041 339 8184

■ **Kaos Komics and Kollectables**, 19 Diamond Street, Aberdeen AB1 1QU. Mon-Sat 10-6; Thurs till 8; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO, jewellery, crystals, t-shirts) 0224 620212

■ **Paul's Comics**, The Gallowgate Market, 148 Gallowgate, Glasgow. Sat & Sun 8.30 - 4.30. (imp, back, ind, merch, STO) Mon-Fri: 041 557 1186

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 28-32 Union Street, Glasgow, G2 7LZ. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-7; Sun 12-5.30. (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 041 221 2915; Fax 041 221 2916

■ **Plan 9 Comics**, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB1 1NE. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (Thurs till 8), Sun 1 - 5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG specialist, board games, figures, STO) 0224 624467

NORTHERN IRELAND

Dark Horizons, 30a Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4LD (near City Hall) Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, subculture, film mags) 0232-233808

■ **Talisman Comics**, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0232-438744

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Music & Video Exchange, 11a La Motte Street, St Helier, Jersey. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (back, ind, Brit, u/g, records, videos, hi-fi) 0534 36606

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REVIEWS

It is the intention of ***Comics International*** *to help you, the comic reader, keep abreast of the entire range of titles currently available through direct sale specialist shops, good newsagents and mail order companies. Few retailers allow you to read all titles in stock before choosing your purchases; our reviews are designed to counter this and draw your attention to comics you might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section should be of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they only discover the quality of a new title after purchase.*

Review codes: *General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with other ***similar*** *titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare* ***Love & Rockets*** *to* ***Batman,*** *but review each within the context of its own genre.*

The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +>) if there has been a notable improvement.

Reviews Editor: Sarah Bolesworth

Reviewing panel: Fabio Paolo Barbieri (FPB), Paul Birch (PB), Jonathan Farmer (JF), Mike Graney (MG), Rol Hirst (RH), Mike Kidson (MK), Skinny Melink (SM), Paul T. Owen (PTO), Peter C. Phillips (PCP) and Michael

DC COMICS

Action Comics 687 <+ -> (Stern & Guice + Rodier) *Reign of the Supermen, Part 1.* The most impressive Superman book also finds the incarnation most resembling the original. Considerably better than anticipated, this doesn't provide any easy solutions but instead injects new life into an exciting character and begins an intriguing storyline that could hold interest for months. (JF) **9**

<+ -> The cold Kryptonian Superman arrives in Metropolis, bringing more mystery and heart-break for Lois Lane. Guice continues to sink into Kirby imitation, but Stern's script proves the rest might have done him some good. (RH) **6**

Adventures of Superman 500 <+> (Ordway & Grummett + Hazlewood) Pa Kent journeys through the afterlife in search of the dead Superman. Low-key affair serving to introduce the four claimants to the Superman throne, as DC tries to climb out of its self-created deep hole. (PCP) **5**

Adventures of Superman 501 <+ -> (Kesel & Grummett + Hazlewood) *Reign of the Supermen, Part 4.* With each book focusing on a different aspect of Superman, this finally re-introduces a Superboy to current continuity, complete with street-talking and earring. The detailed art adds to the enjoyment. (JF) **6**

<+> The most enjoyable of the new look Super-books introduces the hip new Superboy. Kesel's scripting is very impressive for a guy best known as an inker, and the new colouring process adds much to Grummet's detiled artwork. (RH) **9**

Animal Man 60 <-> (Vertigo; Delano & Braun + Higgins) Buddy escapes (perhaps too easily) from the asylum by coming on skunk-like (a terrifying superpower). Featurng the first appearance of Animal Man's new costume (or not). (RH) **7**

Atom Special 1 (Peyer & Dillon) Ray Palmer experiences nightmarish daydreams induced by his archfoe, Chronos. A passable attempt which fails, sadly, to ignite. (PCP) **3**

Batman 494 <+ -> (Moench & Aparo + Mandrake) In part five of the 22-part crossover epic, *Knightfall*, The Joker and Scarecrow kidnap Gotham's mayor while Robin tries to escape from its sewers. The curious Aparo-Mandrake team only works when Mandrake's style is more dominant and, on the whole, the issue is disappointing; especially when compared to *Knightfall, Part 4* last week. (PTO) **6**

Batman 495 <- -> (Moench & Aparo + Wiacek) The plot moves increasingly slowly along in this very disappointing chapter of *Knightfall*. Aparo's art is at best mediocre and Moench's dialogue is almost embarrassing in places. A "must *not* buy" issue. (PTO) **4**

Batman 496 <-> (Moench & Aparo + Rubinstein) Anybody who reads **Cerebus** will find this issue accidentally hilarious. The broken Batman faces Joker and Scarecrow in the Gotham sewers but, after a dose of fear-gas, ends up shouting "Jason!" throughout the fight. The Roach would be proud! (RH) **6**

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 46 <+ -> (Moench & Heath) A heatwave strikes Gotham in another tale from Batman's increasingly hectic Year One: Batman teams with Catwoman to rescue a scantily-clad weather-woman and battle a newly psychotic (since when?) Catman. Nothing we haven't seen before, but still enjoyable. (RH) **7**

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 13 <+!> (Alan Grant & Breyfogle) It's mawkish, it's patronising, it's tear-jerking — and it's wonderful. A superbly paced and plotted "I do it for the little guy" Batman drama, with a dying hobo who knows who Batman is. Breyfogle is as overblown as ever, but with Alan Grant in spitfire form, who cares? (FPB) **9**

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 14 <+ -> (Grant & Staton + Mitchell) Despite Joe Staton's misplaced visuals, this tale of corrupt and kind carnival freaks is a welcome break from *Knightfall*, and a reminder that Batman used to be called the world's greatest detective. (RH) **7**

Batman: Shadow of the Bat Annual 1 (Grant & Von Eeden + Giordano) Look kids, something with *blood* in the title, must be hot! DC's latest annual crossover, *Bloodlines*, plums new depths of shallowness as a big bad (and bloody) alien comes to Gotham and dukes it out with Batman and Joe Public. Yes. Nice art though. (RH) **4**

Blood Syndicate 3 (Milestone; McDuffie + Velez & Cross + Gustovitch) Meet the staple "claws 'n' attitude" character in the team (every superteam has to have one!) — Boogieman. However, the book does retain the reader's attention, helped by a tight script and pacy plotting. (RH) **7**

Detective Comics 661 <+!> (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) *Knightfall* continues and, while Joker and Scarecrow terrorises the mayor, Firefly sets Gotham ablaze. At times, Nolan's artwork looks as if it *might* be spot on but, when you look again, he's not quite got there. Still a very good issue, with another excellent Kelley Jones cover. (PTO) **8**

Detective Comics 662 <+ -> (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) In another satisfactory issue, Batman takes on the Firefly, Robin foils the Riddler's plan and the Huntress also makes a brief appearance. Whoever thought *Knightfall* could hold up through more than twenty parts was sadly mistaken; already the novelty is wearing thin. (PTO)**7**

Detective 663 <+ -> (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) Batman gets closer to Bane as the excitement mounts in the impressive *Knightfall* saga. With Graham Nolan's best art job ever — this guy has come from shoddy to outstanding; he tells the story very well. (RH) **8**

Doom Patrol 67 <+> (Vertigo; Pollack & Medley + Higgins) Finally shrugging off the shadow of Grant Morrison, Rachel Pollack steps forward to show her true ability as the Doom Patrol moves into the suburbs and an auto-erotic household. As baffling as is necessary, but with both plot and gags far improved on the last storyline. (RH) **8**

Eclipso 8 <+> (Fleming & McKeever + Kryssing) A spellbinding story that manages the capture the essence of Sherlock Holmes whilst establishing a background for that foulest of monsters, Eclipso. McKeever's stylised, baroque artwork perfectly conveys a complex, compelling script that gives Eclipso a depth not usually reached in the portrayal of standard villains. (JF) **9**

Enigma 4 <+> (Vertigo; Milligan & Fegredo + Van Valkenburg) Bizarre comic book characters come to life and cause more problems for Michael Smith. As with **Shade**, Milligan mixes offbeat relationships with weird characters and the resilt is more enjoyable every month. (RH) **8**

Flash 77 <+> (Waid & Laroque + Richardson) Barry Allen, former Flash, is not happy. On his return from the grave he finds a newcomer in his place who, naturally, tries to kill him. Then the original Flash tries to stop him. It's Flash Central for an all-out battle between old and new. Waid's fine script provides plenty of treats and twists. We can only hope that he concludes this exemplary tale with a satisfying finale. (JF) **8**

<+> Barry Allen rampages still while Wally turns up some mysterious evidence concerning his former mentor in this switchback storyline by Waid. Jay Garrick, Johnny Quick and Max Mercury make guest appearances. (PCP) **9**

Flash 78 <+> (Waid & Laroque + Richardson) It *is* Professor Zoom! Thousands of Barry Allen fans can breathe a collective sigh of relief as the rogue Flash is revealed as reverse Flash in another entertaining issue of this intelligent superhero book. (RH) **9**

Green Arrow 75 <+> (Grell & Hoberg) Speedy — I can't call him Arsenal, it just doesn't seem right — attacks his adopted father while Ollie and Dinah break up. After a couple of slowish months Grell again hits us with an "everything happens at once" issue that reflects real life remarkably well. (RH) **8**

Green Lantern Corps Quarterly 5 <+> (various) The theme of rebirth highlights this issue which includes two of the best Lantern tales for years. In the first, Elliot S Maggin and Franchesco present an eloquent tale of a Lantern from a species composed of only one soul. In another, Ron Marz and the excellent Jim Balent re-introduce the original Green Lantern, Alan Scott, revitalised for a new era. Both tales are finely told and outshine the tales of G'Nort and Itty which round out the issue. (JF) **9**

Hardware 4 <+ -> (Milestone; McDuffi & Cowan + Palmiotti) Hardware and an albino vigilante with the unfortunately cliched name of Deathwish hunt a serial killer. Despite a few imaginative bits of technology in Hardware's arsenal, this is swiftly heading into Punisher territory. (RH) **4**

Hellblazer 66 <+> (Ennis & Dillon) In this issue, Ennis once again proves his mastery over the subject. Whilst many preferred Constantine when he was more subtle, times have changed and now he stands *tall* whilst telling the angel Gabriel where to go... Getting used to Dillon's artwork is becoming very rewarding. (JF) **9**

Justice League America 75 <+ -> (Jurgens & Tanghal + Smith) The mystery behind the fascist league is revealed as a vicious enemy manipulates events to his own evil desire. Without sacrificing the power of the story by casually explaining it away, Jurgens manages to tie together several ongoing story ideas to conclude this powerful tale. A great book. (JF) **8**

<+> Atom and Blue Beetle play major roles here as the *Destiny's Hand* storyline reaches its conclusion. An excellent script, maintaining tension throughout, culminating in the disclosure of Bloodwynd's identity. (PCP) **9**

Justice League Task Force 1 (Michelinie & Velluto + Albrecht) First there was **Secret Defenders**. Coming soon is Valiant's **Secret Weapons**. In between is DC's entry, **Secret JLA**. Empty teamings of hot characters to sell comics mixed with thin espionage plots that were done a hundred times better in **Suicide Squad**. Disappointing. (RH) **4**

Justice Society of America 10 <-> (Strazewski & Parobeck + Machlan) Ted "Starman" Knight returns to superhero action in time for the title's cancellation. With its scripts throughout the run being less than mediocre it begs the question of why DC brought the characters back for this humiliating outing. (PCP) **2**

Kamandi: At Earth's End 1 (Veitch & Gomez + Barreiro) Crossing Kirby with **2000 AD** and merging it with the set from *Batman Returns* —

along with the possibility of a Dark Knight future, this is a very odd first issue that should frustrate and entertain in equal measure. (RH) **6**

Legionnaires 4 <+!> (Bierbaums & Sprouse) This series continues to be excellent. The art is crisp, the dialogue entertaining and the plot flows well. This is a comic book which should please Legion fans and welcome aboard new readers of any age. (PHB) **10**

Legion of Super-Heroes 45 <+!> (Bierbaums & McCraw + Immonen) Immonen continues to produce superior artwork. Mordru's power increases as he raises the dead to fight the Legion plus their new Khund allies. Strong, tight script with some nice characterisation. This book is at last on track and going places. (PHB) **9**

Sandman 51 <+ -> (Vertigo; Gaiman & Talbot + Stevens) A lavishly illustrated opening sequence introduces Gaiman's series of enigmatic dream tales, to be featured over the next few issues. This first is a simple but effective Iain Banks-ian tale of a city that sleeps — and dreams. (RH) **8**

Sebastian O #2 <+> (Vertigo; Morrison + Yeavell) Typically bizarre Victorian sf tale from the Zenith team — violence and black humour abound. Quite funny and very original. Worth the price simply for Yeavell's wonderful, pacy art: he could teach the Image crew a thing or two about storytelling. (MS) **8**

Shade, the Changing Man 37 <+ ->

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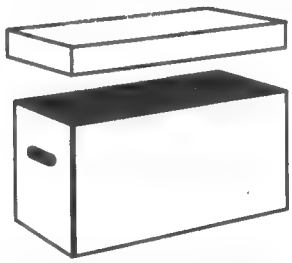

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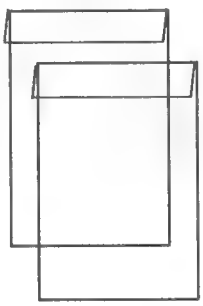

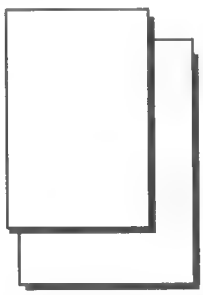

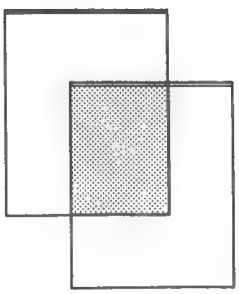

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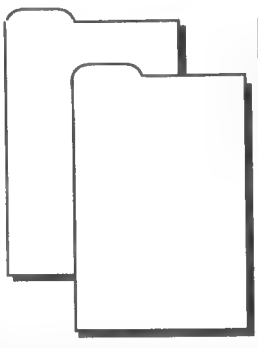

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(Vertigo; Milligan & Bachalo + Bryant) A kid with the power to evoke emotional responses drops in at Hotel Shade and the proprietor sees a way to turn this to his own devious advantage. A book with some of the best art and dialogue in comics right now — and when they're both together, it can't be bettered. (RH) **10**

Spectre 8 <+> (Ostrander & Mandrake) Behind a lovely sand-paper (?) cover that looks great when you switch the lights off, this is actually the best issue so far of the series. Corrigan protects AIDS victim Amy while fighting prejudice in the community. (RH) **8**

Static 1 (Milestone; McDuffie & Washington, Leon + Mitchell) Using a teenage hero is not the most original of premises, but Static acts and sounds like a *real* teenager, not a steroid-bound goof. Hilarious script, nice artwork, imaginative use of powers — dare I suggest that this could be the Lee/Ditko **Spider-Man** of the '90s? (RH) **10**

Superman 78 <+) (Jurgens & Breeding) *Reign of the Supermen, Part 3.* Poor Lois doesn't know who to believe — and neither do we. Much better than simply resurrecting our hero, he now have four Supermen to capture our attention. Only to be expected from a team who provide the most intriguing and busy super-hero books, week after week. (JF) **9**

<+> The Super-Cyborg goes after Doomsday's body in a story with very strong artwork. Still — and I have to ask — do we really need *two* emotionless Supermen? (see **Action Comics!**) (RH) **7**

Superman: Man of Steel 22 <+> (Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) *Reign of the Supermen, Part 2.* A black construction worker — the least recognisable incarnation of Superman — forging a suit of steel to fight for justice. Has he been infused with the spirit of Superman? Unlikely, but it does make for an interesting story with the quirky artwork working well. (JF) **8**

<+> Probably the most original character among the new Supermen, the new Man of Steel is more than just a predictable "Black Superman". An interesting episode from what is normally the least enjoyable of the Super-books. (RH) **8**

Wonder Woman 75 <+> (Loebs & Moder + Parks) With no fanfare, no cover enhancement, this title reaches issue number 75 and with it one of the finest tales this book has seen. Establishing little-known powers for our heroine, she must journey within to the Isle of The Sun and outwit Apollo for the healing wool of the flocks of the sun. Poignant, intelligent, brilliant. (JF) **9**

Wonder Woman 76 <++> (Messner-Loebs & Moder + Parks) In a story that is both touching and humorous, Diana and Dr Fate discover the final tragic fate of the Amazons — a disaster that Diana was powerless to prevent. With lovely artwork, this title is heading back to the top. (RH) **8**

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man 379 <- -> (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) Just when you think things couldn't get any worse, Marvel can always go one better. Violent, pointless steriod-infested fight issue that culminates in Spidey getting a gun. Another example of the worrying Marvel trend towards promoting firearms as an answer to everything. Sad. (RH) **1**

Avengers 363 <- +> (Harras & Epting + Palmer) The Avengers take the offensive as they encounter the fortress of The Gatherers. However, these foes are acting for what they think is the greater good — to prevent worldwide devastation. Harras continues a most intriguing Avengers tale greatly aided by detailed, exciting artwork. (JF) **8**

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Excalibur 66 <+> (Davis & Farmer) Davis departs as Excalibur embarks on the conclusion to the Phoenix Saga. Rachel Summers decides to literally face her future by confronting her past. The result is a tight, well-defined plot which is complemented by the successful artistic marriage of Davis and Farmer. The departure of both will again result in a decline in quality and a long period of mourning. (JF) **9**

Incredible Hulk 406 <+> (David & Frank + Smith) Once more, David exhibits mastery as he mixes personal crisis and heated conflict with the greatest of ease. Marlo sits catatonic whilst around her the Hulk lays into Captain America. Worth reading for the Hulk's comments alone. (JF) **9**

Incredible Hulk 407 <-> (David & Frank + Smith) The Hulk visits Loch Ness and clashes with a monster of a different colour (well, many different colours), called Piecemeal. A set-up issue that bodes well for next month if writer Peter David can avoid his newfound love of slugfests long enough to provide the promised psychoanalysis. (RH) **7**

Infinity Crusade 1 (Starlin & Lim + Milgrom) Religiously-oriented heroes see the light in this final series of the *Infinity Saga*. Starlin provides an intriguing tale that speaks for the good in all but has to plant within that good some measure of corruption, thus discouraging empathy. The plain, simplistic artwork adds little to the tale. (JF) **7**

New Warriors 35 <+ -> (Nicieza & Brasfield + Albrecht) Pleasant, somewhat poorly plotted rites-of-passage story. Nova (of all people) instructs a couple of kids in the use of their battle suit, without knowing that a bunch of villains are gunning for him. Brasfield, although barely competent, is a vast improvement on Robertson. (FPB) **7**

Secret Defenders 4 <+> (Thomas & Coates + Hudson) Return to form for what is shaping up to be one of Marvel's better titles. Doc Strange gathers another ill-assorted team (Namorita, Sleepwalker and The Punisher) to fight a truck-driving, demonic serial killer with an odd secret. (FPB) **7**

Spectacular Spider-Man 201 <- -> (DeMatteis & Buscema) The biggest tragedy of the *Maximum Carnage* crossover is that it disrupts the excellent work being done on this book. Here, DeMatteis and Buscema try their best to salvage a story from the bloodbath — a better attempt than I'd expected, but ultimately flawed by the nature of the beast itself. (RH) **5**

Spider-Man 36 <-> (Kavanagh & Lyle + Hanna) The question is: can *Maximum Carnage* get any worse? And here's the answer! Another pointless battle in which nothing is accomplished except the appearance of more guests. Less plot than your average wrestling match. (RH) **1**

Spider-Man 2099 # 9 <+> David & Jones + McKenna) Something of a shock as the excellent art team of Kelley Jones and Mark McKenna take on the premier hero of the new future. David's script is full of wit and wisdom, where the development of the environment is as important as the characters, but the fluid, graceful artwork puts it all to shame. (JF) **9**

Thor 463 <-> (Marz & Zick + DeCarlo) It seems that few appreciate the work being done here by Zick, which is understandable as it *is* grotesque and ungainly — but in a good way! Traditional it is not, but rather retro-stylised for a bold tomorrow taking into account the glorious past. (JF) **7**

2099 Unlimited 1 (Skolnick & Wozniak; Jones & Turner) A barely-passable **Spider-Man 2099** tale, lacking in humour, precedes the inevitable creation of Hulk 2099: a confusing and ugly character with none of the charm or imagination of the 20th century version. The writing suffers from inevitable comparison with Peter David. (RH) **3**

Uncanny X-Men Annual <+> (Lobdell & Pearson + Farner) Old villain Mastermind finally snuffs it, while new X-nemesis X-Cutioner makes his entrance. Quite simply, the best post Claremont X-story yet. Brilliant art from Pearson and a surprisingly good Lobdell script, with Mastermind's death genuinely touching and the X-Cutioner's debut both menacing and mysterious. Excellent stuff. (MS) **10**

Uncanny X-Men 301 <+ -> (Lobdell & Romita, Jr + Green) Romita continues his no-nonsense, abrasive approach, with Fitzroy scheming to ascend through the ranks of the Upstarts by killing Forge. Newcomer Lobdell's writing still insists on mimicking fellow scripter Nicieza by stringing the reader out with a complex interlacing of over-extended plotlines. Nevertheless, this is an improvement on its sister comics, as the light can actually be seen at the end of the tunnel. (JF) **6**

U.S. Agent 1 (Gruenwald & Wyman + Williams) A well produced slice of life finds the government's top operative at a loss as to what to do. Gruenwald introduces an interesting follow-up to past storylines and the artwork has a smooth feel, making this an enjoyable, if unchallenging tale. (JF) **6**

Venom 5 <-> (Michelinie + Lim + DeLaRosa) Frankly, something of an embarrassment as our star and Spider-Man team up to stop five new Venom-like symbiotes. This relies on the reputation of Venom to gain attention to which the uninspired script and basic artwork cannot lay claim. (JF) **3**

Warlock and the Infinity Watch 17 <-> (Starlin & Grindberg + Almond) The mysterious Maxam arrives as a possible portent of doom. Starlin's work contains great depth that a casual read might not reveal, but proves to be highly rewarding. Grindberg's style continues to devolve from Neal Adams's to the near-indecipherable. (JF) **7**

Wolverine 70 <+ -> (Hama & Turner + Bennett) In the Savage Land, trouble's coming and it's riding in the sky. Wolverine battles with Sauron; Jubilee fights for her life and Rogue is held captive. And that's before the Tyrannosaurs arrive! With all this, Hama still gives a personal feel to his characters and Turner shows much more of the promise first seen on the doomed **Cage**. (JF) **8**

X-Factor 91 <+ -> (Lobdell + Quesada + Milgrom) Quesada consolidates his position as Marvel's top ongoing artist as he depicts X-Factor journeying through the sewers of Genosha in search of a terminally-ill mutant. Even after the departure of Peter David, this book still retains its own unique brand of humour and character development, also successfully conveying a message without appearing moralistic or patronising. (JF) **9**

X-Force 23 <- +> (Nicieza & Capullo + Candelario) This adheres to the current X-title formula: slugfest and confusion, followed by an inconclusive finale. Capullo's pencils are steadily improving. But there is still a vast distance between the current X-artists and their predecessors. The only bright spot is the reappearance of favourites Deadpool and Domino. (JF) **5**

X-Men 21 <-> (Nicieza & Peterson + Panosian) Nicieza delivers what must

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tactfully be described as another bland X-Title. Nothing happens in an issue where the confused reader travels through a storyline with the equally confused Psylocke/Betsy Braddock. Another inconclusive issue from Nicieza, worsened by a penciller whose lack of variety in facial expressions is only matched by Mr Liefeld himself. (JF) 3

<-> Poor issue, with Peterson's vacuous art a poor fill-in for the excellent Kubert and Nicieza's script as inconsistent as ever. Maybe the forthcoming crossover will tighten it up. But, remember the X-Cutioner's Song... (MS) 5

X-Men Unlimited 1 <-> (Lobdell & Bachalo + Panosian) An uneven tale in which Cyclops, Storm and Professor X find themselves stranded in an inhospitable, frozen wasteland. Full of good ideas and terrible monologues, Lobdell proves that he can be insightful but needs to improve his dialogue. Bachalo's impressive style is dulled somewhat by the light inks. (JF) 7

INDEPENDENTS

Accident Man 1 (Dark Horse; Mills & Skinner + Mighten) The "Toxic" character returns with a different publisher but with the same combination of sex, violence and general bad taste. But it has some amusing touches and great one-liners; Mighten's offbeat, kinetic visuals work much better here than in Marvel UK's **Wild Thing**. Much better, too, than the dire **Punisher 2099**. (MS) 8

Aliens: Rogue 1 (Dark Horse; Edginton & Simpson) This latest series adds little in the way of story development. Humans are still holding Aliens captive and attempting to subdue them, but there are undercurrents of something ugly going on. What stands out here is Simpson's excellent, bleak artwork — and the similarity with his **Rogue Trooper** is not lost. (JF) 7

Bloodstrike 1 (Image; Liefeld, Stephenson & Fraga + Miki) Prelude to *Blood Brothers*, a Brigade crossover. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the conclusion of the first **Brigade** mini-series, which will include the finale of **Youngblood**. As an individual title, **Bloodstrike** is just another superhero comic populated by reject X-Men. Nice cover, shame about the contents; another example of comics by numbers. (JF) 2

Concrete: Eclectica 2 (Dark Horse; Chadwick + Hotchkiss) Concrete meets his maker in a short original story. Subtle and thought provoking, with a backing strip focusing on love and personal sacrifice: Chadwick at his most effective. (RH) 9

Darker Image 1 (Image) Anthology title, introducing: *The Maxx* (Kieth & Loebs + Kieth); *Bloodwulf* (Liefeld) and *Deathblow* (Choi & Lee + Lee) — with only *The Maxx* showing any appreciable level of originality throughout the title. (PCP) 5

Dinosaurs for Hire 3 <-> (Malibu; Mason & Byrd + McCorkindale) Do you smell something? It's only the plot twist for this issue as The Ex-Mutants guest-star. The question on everybody's lips is — what the heck is going on? And will it affect back-issue prices? Just try it. (JF) 7

Dracula: Vlad the Impaler 1 (of 3; Topps; Thomas & Maroto) Opening episode, following Dracula's life from youth, captive of the Muslims, through to his regaining the throne and title of Impaler. An epic saga, perfectly produced by seasoned professionals. (PCP) 10

Femforce 58 (AC; Black & Ayers + Heike + Black) The Sentinels team is reformed just in time to confront a ghostly apparition — and come out on the losing side. Vault heroes make guest appearances. Plus, Microman recounts his origin (Black & Ayers + Black). Black keeps a tight rein on his scripts to spin 2 compelling tales. (PCP) 8

Hybrids # 0 (Continuity-Prelude 2000; Adams & Stone + Davis) An interesting team of teen heroes, a fast-paced story and lots of action... Sounds like the DC of the '60s? It's all that and more. This is going to be a series worth following. (PHB) 9

League of Champions 9 & 10 <+> (Heroic; Mallonee & various) Mallonee uses the aftermath of the Morrigan Wars to do some necessary spring cleaning in his superhero universe — without *Crisis*-type silliness. An excellent E H Cruz story of Rose's first pregnancy is serialized in the two issues and a well-written Icestar story by S V Wilson rounds off number 10. Poor artwork, though, apart from Cruz's contribution. (FPB) 8

The Maxx 2 <+> (Kieth & Messner-Loebs) Maxx continues to drift between two distinct worlds as Kieth delves into the bizarre persona of Mr Gone and his captive. Thankfully, this title swims against the relentless tide of imaginatively impoverished work and presents the reader with a refreshing, well thought out and ultimately rewarding storyline. (JF) 9

Megalith # 0 (Continuity-Prelude 2000; Adams & Stone + Infante) Okay, so Continuity has been erratic with its production, but now it's back with a bang. Here we have a polished, high quality product with Neal Adams pulling out all the stops. The art looks like his classic DC **Superman** and acclaimed X-Men material and the storyline gets off with a good head of steam. (PHB) 8

Bombast 1 (Topps; Thomas & Friedrich, Ayers + Severin) A superhero from an eons-old civilisation awakens in modern Chicago but is unable to make himself understood. The Kirby-created concepts prove he has still a lot to offer the comics medium. Eric Larsen's Savage Dragon makes a guest appearance in what proves to be a rousing opener. (PCP) 8

Detectives 1 (Alpha) Anthology title of diverse interest celebrating 70 years of private eye fiction, featuring *Mike Mauser* (Cuti & Staton); *Maze Agency* (Barr & Pelletier + Cram); *Mike Mist* (Collins & Beatty); *Tony Bravado* (Parrigo & Grail) and *Johnny Dynamite* (Alascia). Fairly routine and a bit of a let-down, given the talent available. (PCP) 5

Eternal Warrior 12 (Valiant; Moretti & VanHook & Moretti + Dixon) An ancient nemesis takes control of Gilad in an above average episode, offering some sense of purpose and direction. (PCP) 6

Femforce 59 (AC; Black & Gorby & Ayers + Heike) The girls and the New Sentinels continue their assault on the Fear apparition, unaware that they are being manipulated by General Gordon. Featuring the untold origin of Yankee Girl (Black & Pollard + Heike). (PCP) 8

Goood Girl Art Quarterly 11 (AC) Yankee Girl is hire by unscrupulous backers to promote snack cakes (Heike & Gorby + Heike) in a nonsensical yawn of a story. Torchy, Sky Gal and Phantom Lady reprints round out a less than thrilling experience. (PCP) 3

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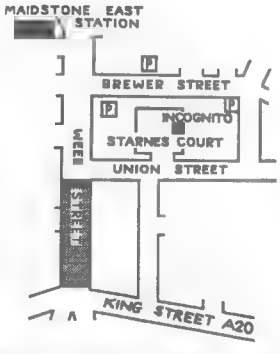

Jungle Girls 13 (AC) Tara and Synn go to the movies and fall foul of Umbra the Voodoo Queen (Black & Count + Heike), setting up a future storyline. Routine Tiger Girl and Sheena reprints follow. The new material helps. (PCP) 4

The Mighty Magnor 1 (Malibu; Aragones & Evanier) Seriously funny parodies about superheroes are a rare breed but, typically, the Groo-some twosome creators have here taken only the essence of such a concept and appended it to a decidedly amusing story that almost stands on its own without reference to the genre. A deceptive read, with more plot and characterisations in 28 pages than most books can deliver over a year. (PB) 8

Comic book creators hire an amnesiac muscle man to model as a superhero. Mayhem ensues as Aragones pokes fun at the comics industry. In plain or pop-up cover editions. (PCP) 10

Man From UNCLE: The Birds of Prey Affair 1 (of 2; Innovation; Ellis & Choles + Hillsman) Solo and Kuryakin walk into a THRUSH deathtrap. A credible attempt to capture the flavour of the cult TV series. (PCP) 6

Next Men 14 <+ -> (John Byrne; Dark Horse) Whereas most tales dealing with the "revelation" that comic book heroes aren't real come across as infantile or twee, Byrne manages a new take in his world where superheroes exist. (JF) 8

<+> Danny travels to New York to search out his favourite comic book hero, Action Maxx, only to stumble into the offices of a familiar-looking publishing empire and a strangely recognisable editor. Byrne pokes fun at his former employers while building the **Next** mystery in sub-plots elsewhere. (RH) 9

1963 #2 <-> (Image; Moore & Bissette + Gibbons) Oh dear. It started well and the insights are still there, but already the joke's wearing thin. It would be much better if it could decide if it was homage or satire: this issue's digs at Spiderman are clever, but are they really that funny? (MS) 4

<-> Battling the Voidoid's the least of The Fury's problems in this action issue, where angst screams from every panel. A shame Bissette's art only shines through on the Warbeast scenes. The rest of the time, Gibbons' inks tend to subdue the whole affair. (PB) 6

Paragon 1 (AC; Black & various) Angered at being prevented from using his powers — and at the formation of the New Sentinels (see **Femforce**), Paragon reflects on his origin decade. Vic Bridges, Mark Heike and Eric Larsen — among others — contribute to a mixed bag of visuals. (PCP) 6

Paragon 2 (SC; Black & various) Black Commando seeks revenge on government scientists, while the revision of Star and Paragon's origins continues in a series ideal for new readers. (PCP) 6

Paragon 3 (AC; Black & various) More on Paragon's origins as Black Commando continues to work down his hit list. Various AC heroes make guest appearances. (PCP) 5

Quantum Leap 12 (Innovation; Rckwell & Deodato) Sam's latest leap is into the life of a reclusive desert-dwelling gas station proprietor; allowing Sam and Al time to debate the hows and whys of changing history. Thoughtful interlude — a delight for fans of the BBC TV import series. (PCP) 8

Raver 1 (Malibu; Koenig & Day + Day) A lecturer, threatened by a school bully, suddenly finds himself in a nightmare parallel world. Incoherent nonsense. (PCP) 0

Redblade 1 (Dark Horse; Giarrano) Demonic heroes and villains wage war with Earth. Flimsy plot, with visuals in the Image mold. (PCP) 2

Satan's Six 1 (Topps; Kirby, Isabella & Cleary + Gil, various) Beyond the nostalgic allure of Kirby's pencils inked by the likes of Miller, McFarlane and Ditko, this has little to recommend it. Between Kirby's seven original pages, a new art team provides a poor, self-referential framing that doesn't really hang together, nor is it as funny as it thinks it is. (JF) 4

Inept lost souls return to Earth, seeking conscripts for Hell. Kirby sticks his tongue well and truly in his cheek for this delightful escapist story. A Wolf and Byrd featurette (Lash & Ditko) provides a secondary treat. (PCP) 9

Secret City Saga 0 (Topps) Free prelude issue, introducing Kirby's new Topps-produced superhero mythos — the stright action Bombast, Captain Glory (Thomas & Simonson) and the anarchic Satan's Six (Isabella & Cleary + Gil). A "sets everything up" necessity. (PCP) 9

Spawn 9 (Image; Gaiman & McFarlane) Spawn battles the Angel of Death. Wordy — with an ambiguous ending — showing how good the concept can be with decent scripting. (PCP) 9

Spawn 10 <++> (Image; Sim & McFarlane) Sim and McFarlane are both at their absolute best in this allegory of characters and creators that should be recommended reading for anyone thinking of a career in comics. Both touching and provocative, this should silence McFarlane critics, for a while at least. Plus — Cerebus — what else do we need? (RH) 10

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 57 <+ -> (Mirage; Eastman, Laird & Lawson + Aitken) Midway through the *City at War* storyline, the Turtles are presented with an offer from their enemy's camp. But who can they trust? More down to earth storytelling, where the finale is in no way predicatable. (JF) 6

Tribe 1 (Johnson + Stroman) Much as I hate to say anything bad about Stroman, it's difficult to find anything positive about this confusing premiere. Stroman's inks are just too heavy, making most of the characters unrecognisable. Coupled with Johnson's long winded, complex and unreadable dialogue, it makes the whole thing difficult to understand. Stroman's ability is unquestionable, but he needs to get a grip if this is going to be anything more than merely a source of future regret. (JF) 4

Turok Dinosaur Hunter 1 (Valiant; Michelinie & Sears + Elliot) A South American Indian village is threatened by Turok's lost land dinosaur nemesis. Violent only by necessity and a far cry from the stagnant Gold Key original. (PCP) 9

Vampirella 3 (Harris; Sniegoski & Balent) Vampirella confronts Dracula in a Europe dominated by vampires. Non stop thrills with Balent (soon to draw **Catwoman** for DC) flagged as another artist to watch in the "hot" catagory. (PCP) 8

Wildstar 1 (Image; Gordon & Ordway) Brutal — yet imaginative time travel opus; a departure from Ordway's usual cosy image. The fact that it's not cover-to-cover action helps considerably. (PCP) 8

Youngblood: Strikefile 1 (Image; Liefeld & Miki, Jae Lee) A double extravaganza from the world of Rob Liefeld, the function of which is to bring depth to the otherwise flat creations of Extreme Studios. With all this said and done, both stories are vast improvements on previous **Youngblood** instalments. Fans will take pleasure in the juxtaposition of artistic styles and Jae Lee's unique interpretation of a Youngblood so long-dominated by Liefeld clones. The book's quality is only marred by Liefeld's inaccurate swastikas (!) and his lack of continuity between panels. (JF) 8

UK TITLES

Adventures of Superman 1 (Fleetway; Perez & various) Fleetway's latest **Superman** comic is far better than its predecessors, featuring two great stories: one with excellent art by Perez; the other — terrible art by Janson. Along with Superman's *Who's Who* entry plus a glossy cover and free pencil, this new incarnation is also fortnightly and cheaper! A good start. (PTO) 9

The Incomplete Death's Head 3 <+ -> (Marvel UK; B Hitch & D Hine) Reprinting the earlier series with additional pages, it's a far tamer beast than the new species. Death's Head goes on a job for Dragon's Claws where his main concern is to avoid doing overtime or letting Spratt con him into a partnership. (PB) 5

MyS-TECH Wars 2 <+ -> (Marvel UK; Abnett, Hitch & Anderson, Whitaker) In one of those crossovers where anybody who's anybody (and those looking for publicity for their own title) ends up beating some major cosmic force, Abnett succeeds in delivering some nice dialogue between Captain America and Wolverine about their old pal, Nick Fury. Artist Bryan Hitch bears his Alan Davis influences boldly, but still with some way to go. If he's not pushed into too many jobs and can take time to develop, he'll be worth watching out for. (PB) 6

Overkill 27 <+ -> (Marvel UK; various) In the conclusion of *Digitek*, there are some unexpected notes of pathos and humour. A worthy story that generally has more to its plot than guys beating up on each other — which happens in the main during the other strips. (PB) 5

Overkill 28 <- -> (Marvel UK; various) Marvel UK's main problem lies with the artists. Though Liam (**Death's Head**) Sharp's art is striking, it is not all that good. And the work on the other two strips (*Motormouth* and *Warheads*) is abysmal. This issue does boast a dazzling cover and free poster by Mark Harrison, probably **Overkill**'s best artist. (PTO) 5

<-> With only three strips and no text features it's worth looking at, but only *Death's Head* is of any merit, in a storyline where, with Wolverine in tow, they escape the possessed Tuck and then play cat and mouse with some big Savage Dragon lookalikes (The Raptors). (PB) 4

Overkill 29 (- +> (Marvel UK; Various) A terrible issue. I can't wait for next issue's relaunch with two new strips, but at least there's finally a debate in the letters page! (PTO) 2

2000 AD 832 (++> (Fleetway; various) Thrills, spills and misadventure throughout. But with a back cover ad for **MAD** magazine and assorted movie send-ups inside, you'd almost be forgiven for thinking you'd picked up the wrong publication! (PB) 8

2000 AD 834 (++> (Fleetway; various) Simon Jacob's been refining his art of late on *Armoured Gideon* — with John Tomlinson's script it's a winner. With *Purgatory*, Mark Millar at last hands in a decent script for **2000 AD**, matched by some darkly gruesome art from Dredd creator Carlos Ezquerra. Austin's art on *Dredd*, unfortunately, shows a poor appreciation of pace. (PB) 7

SMALL PRESS

Automatic 1 (Greenbone Graphix; anthology; £1 from Greenbone Graphix, Vale View, 77 Liverpool Road, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 3LH) A collection of short, lightweight pieces ranging from "real life" anecdotes about paperboys to surreal collages. The contents are varied, but the engaging sense of fun is consistent throughout. (MK) 7

Invisible Comics 2 (DNA Press; Cunningham; £1.50 from Darryl Cunningham, 63 Whin Knol Avenue, Blackhill, Keighley, West Yorks BD21 2HY) These days, Cunningham's moved on from the stark melancholia of his backup strips in **Cerebus**. The four stories here range from metaphysical musings to an hilarious piece of cartoon mega-violence, all equally well executed. First class production standards make this a worthwhile package. (MK) 7

Jubba Jubba 1 (85 pence from Kev Blake, 33 Clarina Street, Lincoln LN2 5LZ) A comic inspired by **VIZ** — which actually works — due to Blake's offbeat sense of humour and diverse art styles. Unfortunately, there's not enough content — but it's a promising start. (MK) 6

Lee Butler (Rigg/Schroeder; £1.25 from Peter Rigg, 150 Beaufort Street, Nelson, Lancs BB9 0SA) A masterly study of domestic fear and loathing. Rigg's fluid layouts and expressive art convey the nuances of feeling within a repressive family without resorting to laboured exposition; Schroeder's sympathetic inking enhances the experience. A stunning and original comic. (MK) 9

The Phantom Bog Roller 1 (£1.60 from Stephen Corps, 276 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 5DX) Teenager is struck by lightning while sitting on toilet and turns into super-powered loo-roll. The story is predictable, but the art (all curves and shading) is expert and weirdly attractive....Ooo-er! (MK) 4

Sub Rosa 1 (£3 from Richard Argent, 7a Grange Gardens, Southend, Essex SS1 2LL) Three underground style stories of which the longest — an untitled piece condemning both drug abuse and the authorities — contains an array of phantasmagoric art styles. A disturbing and very impressive debut — A Freak Brothers for the nineties, perhaps? (MK) 8

Underground 1 (free from Underground, PO Box 613, London SE22 9QT) A subversive, satirical broadsheet, loaded with cartoons and collages by the likes of Lawrence Burton and Graham Harwood. Highly recommended to those who like seeing the boot put into John Major's "classless society" — with a vengeance. (MK) 5

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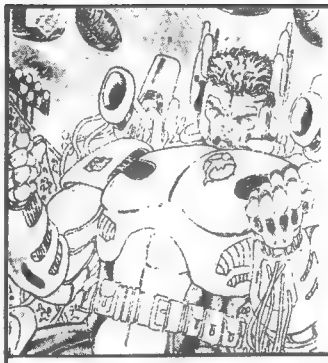

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w/s	= wholesale terms/discounts
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Generally acknowledged as 1938-1945 but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics

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■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 0622-683642

■ **Skyrack**, 51 The Superstore, Leeds LS2 8LY, Yorkshire (cat-95p, s-wants)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (cat, CoBRA, wants, cc) 081-449 5535

SILVER AGE TITLES

*Generally deemed to commence in 1955 with DC's hero rebirth through **Detective 225** (Martian Manhunter) and **Showcase 4** (Flash), herein covering up to late 1960s.*

■ **Conquistador**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Cosmic Comics**, PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW (s-cat, w/s, CoBRA)

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

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■ **Mike Cruden**, 18 Backbower Lane, Hyde SK14 5NS (s-cat, wants) 061 366 8226

■ **Skinny Melink's**, 66 Loampit Vale, London SE13. (s-wants, CoBRA) 081-318 0499

■ **Skyrack**, 51 The Superstore, Leeds LS2 8LY, Yorkshire (cat-95p)

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■ **Top Ten Comics**, Unit 3, 9-12 St Anne's Court, London W1V 3AX 071 734 7388

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP (cat, CoBRA) 0202 422964

POST-SILVER AGE

1970s to date titles; Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum-Valiant-Image Age. Historians will doubtless decide on a name.

■ **ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0206 561912

■ **Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11. (s-cat, s-wants) 071-924 3609

■ **Beyond Comics & Books**, 1 Ballina Street, London SE23 1DR (cat)

■ **Bookscene**, 70 Alfreton Road, Nottingham NG7 3NN (s-cat, CoBRA) 0602 422575

■ **Comics Warehouse**, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 0621 850351

■ **Conquistador**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Cosmic Comics**, PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW (s-cat, w/s, CoBRA)

■ **Darkside**, 32 Marlborough Road, London E18 1AP (wants, CoBRA) 081 989 9955

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

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■ **Conquistador**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Darkside**, 32 Marlborough Road, London E18 1AP (wants, CoBRA) 081 989 9955

■ **Graphically Speaking**, 49 Roman Road, London E2. (s-wants, CoBRA) 081 983 4602

■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 0622-683642

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester. (wants, CoBRA) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (cat, CoBRA, wants, cc) 081-449 5535

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■ **ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0206 561912

■ **Bookscene**, 70 Alfreton Road, Nottingham NG7 3NN (s-cat, CoBRA) 0602 422575

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 0622-683642

■ **Nu.Earth**, 4 Davygate Centre, York YO1 2SU (A4s-cat, cc) 0904 611461

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LIMITED EDITIONS

Many high-profile mini-series and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions, which differ from the first generally distributed issue (ash).

■ **Conquistador**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s&n, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Darkside**, 32 Marlborough Road, South Woodford, London E18 1AP (wants, CoBRA, ash) 081 989 9955

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 081-298 1363

■ **Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3PH (cat, cc, s&n) 071 636 1011

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■ **Beyond Comics & Books**, 1 Ballina Street, London SE23 1DR (cat)

■ **Fantasy Domain**, 212 Grange Rd, Plaistow, London E13 0HB (s-cat, s-wants, CoBRA)

■ **Floppy Tongue**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (cat, w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 0622-683642

ORIGINAL ART

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available.

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■ **Conquistador**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

MERCHANDISE

Comics-related t-shirts, posters, video games, video films, badges, etc.

■ **ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0206 561912

■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 0622-683642

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness St, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, CoBRA, cc) 071 485 9320

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (CoBRA, wants, cc) 081-449 5535

PERIPHERALS

Acid-free protection for valuable comics. Backing boards, bags, storage boxes, etc.

■ **Conquistador**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, cc, s-cat) 081-659 9714

■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) 0622-683642

■ **Just Comics**, 2 Crossmead Ave, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9TY (w/s only, CoBRA) 081-318 0499

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (CoBRA, wants, cc) 081-449 5535

■ **Top Ten Comics**, Unit 3, 9-12 St Anne's Court, London W1V 3AX 071 734 7388

COMICS AUCTIONS

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions can provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their comics.

■ **Comic Book Postal Auctions Limited**, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 071 586 3007

■ **Flights of Fantasy**, 82b Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7LW (cat) 081-298 1363

COMICS RESTORATION

Several companies in America currently offer a restoration service for poor grade key issues of old titles. Anybody offering such in the UK will be listed in future issues.

COMICS MAGAZINES

The last two years have brought about a resurgence in UK magazines about comics. Some are small print run but often professionally produced fanzines (fnz), while others have wider distribution and colour printing (pro).

■ **Battleground**, 58 Kingsley Court, Aylesbury Close, Salford M5 4ER (fnz, £1.50 payable to Andy Brewer)

■ **Comic Speculator News**, 19 Montague Road, Hounslow TW3 1LG (55p to CSN)

■ **Comic World**, Castle House, 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex C01 1TH (pro, £2.00 inc p&p)

■ **Gopherville Argus**, 5c Ainslie Place, Perth PH1 5DG (Garth fnz, sae)

■ **Mutant Media**, 3 Ashfield Road, Wellingborough NN8 3JG (fnz, £1.50 payable to Phil Hall)

MANGA TITLES

English language translations and Japanese-style comics.

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. (s-wants) 0742 758905

ART & REFERENCE

Comics history reference magazines & books (ref) plus art books (art) and newspaper strip compilations (strip).

■ **Conquistador**, 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, ref, art, strip, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, ref, cc) 081-298 1363

■ **Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3PH (cat, cc, ref, art, strip) 071 636 1011

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness St, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, CoBRA, ref, art strip, cc) 071 485 9320

ALTERNATIVE & BIOG

The following traders carry an extensive range of biographical & slice-of-life titles (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar, etc)

■ **Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3PH (cat, cc) 071 636 1011

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness St, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, CoBRA, cc) 071 485 9320

ADVERTISING RATES

Each single entry in this index is £3.00, but is only available as a 6-issue series booking. Copy should be sent with pre-payment of £18 plus VAT (£21.15 total) per section to:

Comics International
8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

THE COMICS WAREHOUSE

PO BOX 600 8 GALLIFORD ROAD MALDON ESSEX CM9 7XD

THE CLEARANCE CENTRE FOR PUBLISHERS' OVERSTOCKS AND REMAINDERS

Mail Order CoB RA Protection

The independent comics advertised last month really seemed to excite your attention. We received many orders and have run out of quite a few issues. So, it's back to basics this month with DC and Marvel. The Batman Bane and Azrael books are so popular that we had to very rapidly restrict our allocation to one per customer.

Even so, our stock piles have melted away, temporarily we hope, as we are seeking more copies to bring you. This month we've peppered the advertisement with some more 5-issue samplers to get you interested in other titles and once we have re-evaluated our Indy stock they will be offered again in future issues of ***Comics International.***

Remember each of our advertisements is a completely self contained offer and should not be confused with any other advertisement. Prices in this advertisement are valid from the publication of Comics International 32 until July 17th 1993 only.

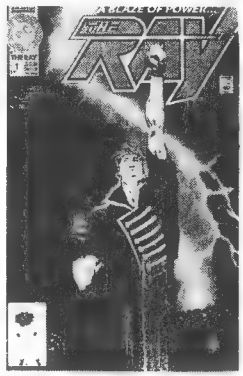
All prices stated are per copy for a single copy of the book listed except "set" prices which are for single sets as advertised. Please remember when ordering "mature" titles that we must have an honest signed statement that you are in excess of 16 years old.

Thank you and welcome to the warehouse where cheap is synonymous with good. We look forward to seeing your order.

SPECIAL OFFER
BATMAN: THE BLUE, THE GREY & THE BAT. Maggin, Weiss & Lopez. Cover price $5.95. **Our price £1.95**

SPECIAL OFFER
HELLBLAZER #60: Classic Glen Fabry cover for Ennis & Simpson fallen angel story. **Only 75p**

SPECIAL OFFER
ROBIN 3000 #1: Metallic cover "Elseworlds" story by P Craig Russell & Preiss. $4.95 cover price. **only £1.75p**



SPECIAL OFFER
THE RAY #1-4: DC's other hot title, featuring Joe Quesada & Art Nichols artwork. **still only 50p each**

Representing **"Your right to read".** We believe you have the right to be able to afford and enjoy comics.

Overstocks cleared

Shops cleared

Liquidated & bulk stock always required

Mart dealers, mail order companies and retail stores: send for details of our wholesale purchase offers.

The minimum order is just £5.00 with a flat fee of £2.00 for delivery, whatever the size of the order. See facing page for ordering instructions.

Please note: to improve despatch we print our computer codes used for each title (eg DC71 = Batman; M300 = Uncanny X-Men). It would be extremely helpful to us if you would give the relevant computer code with your order, whether verbally with telephone orders or when listing written orders.

DC COMICS

DC1: **ACTION COMICS**
585, 586, 596, 597 .. £0.40
602, 603, 604 ..... £0.40
614, 646, 647, 661 .. £0.35
664-683, 686 ..... £0.35

DC6: **ACTION COMICS**
Reprint of Action #1 1938 ..... 0.20

DC21: **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN**
440, 441, 442, 473, 474, 477-496, 499 ..... £0.35

DC23: **AGENT LIBERTY SPECIAL**
1 ..... £0.35

DC24: **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL**
1, 3 ..... £0.75
4 (Eclipso) £0.65

DC41: **ANIMAL MAN**
(Mature Readers)
21, 31, 35-57 ..... £0.80

DC48: **AQUAMAN**
(1986 mini series)
2, 3, 4 ..... 0.25

DC51: **AQUAMAN**
1 ..... £0.35
2-13 ..... £0.25

DC55: **ARION**
1-6 ..... £0.35

DC60: **ARION.**
all six issues: £1.50

DC61: **ARMAGEDDON THE ALIEN AGENDA**
1-4 ..... £0.30

DC62: **ARMAGEDDON 2001 SPECIAL**
1 ..... £0.50

DC63: **ARMAGEDDON INFERNO**
1-4 ..... £0.35

DC66: **ARMAGEDDON: ALIEN AGENDA & INFERNO**
all eight issues just: . £1.50

DC71: **BATMAN**
419, 420 Starlin £1.25
421 Starlin £0.65
434, 435, 441-445 .. £0.35
457, 458, 461-487 .. £0.35
Due to their incredible popularity issues 488 to 491 are temporarily out of stock but we should have more next month.

DC72: **BATMAN ADVENTURES**
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 .... £0.40

DC73: **BATMAN ANNUAL**
15 ..... £0.95
16 (Eclipso) £0.65

DC74: **BATMAN GOTHAM NIGHTS**
1-4 ..... £0.30

DC75: **BATMAN: GOTHAM NIGHTS**
set of four £0.75

DC78: **BATMAN SEDUCTION OF THE GUN**
(Special) £0.65

DC79: **BATMAN THE MOVIE**
(Prestige) 1989 ..... 0.75

DC81: **BATMAN FULL CIRCLE**
(Prestige) £1.25

DC82: **BATMAN HOLY TERROR**
(Prestige) £1.25

DC83: **BATMAN MASTER OF THE FUTURE**
(Prestige) £1.25

DC85: **PENGUIN TRIUMPHANT** £1.75

DC86: **CATWOMAN DEFIANT** £1.95

DC91: **BATMAN v PREDATOR**
1, 3 ..... £0.75

DC92: **BATMAN v PREDATOR**
2, 3 (Prestige) £1.25

DC95: **BATMAN RUN RIDDLER RUN**
1, 2 ..... £1.50

DC96: **BATMAN SHADOW OF THE BAT**
1-6 ..... £0.80
7-11 ..... £0.70

DC441 **BATMAN LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT**
2, 3, 4, 5 ..... £0.95
22-43 ..... £0.80

DC442: **BATMAN LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT Annuals**
1, 2 ..... £0.95

DC101: **BLACK CANARY**
1-4 ..... £0.35

DC102: **BLACK CANARY**
4 issue set: £0.95

DC103: **BLACK CANARY**
1, 2, 3, 4 (1993 series) £0.45

DC110: **BLACK CONDOR**
1-11 ..... £0.30

DC112: **BLACKHAWK SPECIAL (1992)**
(mature readers) .. £0.60

DC113: **BLACKHAWK**
Prestige issues by H Chaykin
1, 2 ..... £0.60

DC114: **BLOOD SYNDICATE**
The first of the new Milestone imprint of black comics
1 ..... £0.65

DC131: **THE BRAVE & THE BOLD**
(6 issue mini series)
1-6 ..... £0.30

DC132: **THE BRAVE & THE BOLD**
all six issues: £1.25

DC155: **MY NAME IS CHAOS (prestige)**
1-4 ..... £0.65

DC162: **CONGORILLA**
1, 2, 3, 4 ..... £0.35

DC171: **THE CLASH**
1-3 (prestige) £0.65

DC186:**CRUCIBLE**
1, 2 new impact book with art layouts by Quesada . £0.30

DC187: **DANGER TRAIL**
1 ..... £0.35

DC188: **DARK STARS**
1, 5 ..... £0.80
2, 3, 4 ..... £0.65

DC189: **DEADMAN: EXORCISM**
1, 2 (Prestige, mature) £1.75

DC191: **DEATHSTROKE THE TERMINATOR**
5-22 ..... £0.50

DC192: **DEATHSTROKE ANNUAL**
1 (Eclipso) £0.65

DC193: **DEATHSTROKE**
5 issue sampler: £1.50

DC201: **THE DEMON**
6, 7, 18-34 ..... £0.65

DC202: **DEMON**
5 issue sampler pack: £1.95

DC203: **DEMON ANNUAL**
1 (Eclipso) £0.65

DC211: **DETECTIVE**
586-588 596 597 599 £0.40
601 602 608 610 620 £0.40
624 625 628-636 ... £0.35
637-656 ..... £0.30

DC212: **DETECTIVE ANNUAL**
4 ..... £0.95
5 (Eclipso) £0.65

DC221: **DR FATE**
33-41 ..... £0.30

DC231: **DOOM PATROL**
43-49 ..... £0.80
50-64 ..... £0.75

DC247: **ECLIPSO THE DARKNESS WITHIN**
giant size specials
1, 2 ..... £0.65

DC248: **ECLIPSO**
1-6 (new series) .. £0.35

DC252: **ELECTRIC WARRIOR**
6-8 ..... £0.30

DC261: **FLASH**
13 14 45 46 51-75 .. £0.35

DC264: **FLASH TV SPECIAL**
Oneshot £0.95

DC266: **FOREVER PEOPLE**
(1988) 1, 2 ..... £0.30

DC291: **GREEN ARROW**
2 3 4 11 12 18-24 ... £0.50
35-37 41 42 45 46 .. £0.50
49 51-62 64-73 .... £0.50

DC292: **GREEN ARROW ANNUAL 5** £0.65

DC294: **GREEN ARROW: THE WONDER YEAR**
(4 part mini series)
1, 2, 3 ..... £0.65

DC301: **GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN II**
1 ..... £0.60
2-5 ..... £0.35
6 ..... £0.60

DC311: **GREEN LANTERN**
7-37 ..... £0.30

DC312: **GREEN LANTERN CORPS QUARTERLY**
1-3 ..... £0.65

DC313: **GREEN LANTERN ANNUAL**
1 (Eclipso) £0.65

DC314: **GREEN LANTERN MOSAIC**
1-11 ..... £0.30

DC315: **GREEN LANTERN**
5 issue sampler: .. £0.95

DC321: **THE GRIFFIN (Prestige format)**
1 ..... £1.25
2-6 ..... £0.95

DC325: **GUY GARDNER REBORN**
2, 3 (prestige) £0.65

DC326: **GUY GARDNER**
1-6 ..... £0.35

DC329: **HACKER FILES**
1-9 ..... £0.50

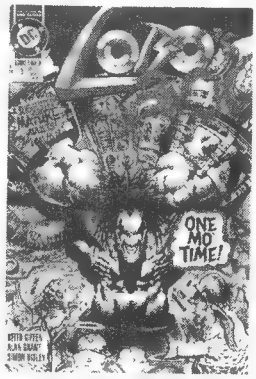
DC330: **HAMMER LOCKE**
1-8 ..... £0.50

DC331: **THE HAWK AND THE DOVE**
10, 18-28 ..... £0.30

DC334: **HARDWARE**
The 2nd new Milestone title
1 ..... £0.65

DC341: **HAWKWORLD**
5-12, 17-32 ..... £0.40

Two to seven day consigned delivery Quality guaranteed Minimum order now only £5.00

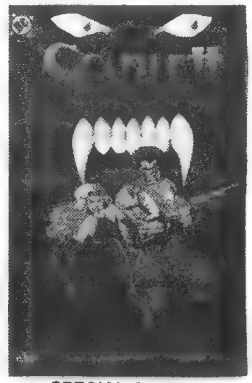


SPECIAL OFFER

LOBO'S BACK: The entire Bisley series now in stock. Issues 1-4. $1.50 cover price **Only 80p each**

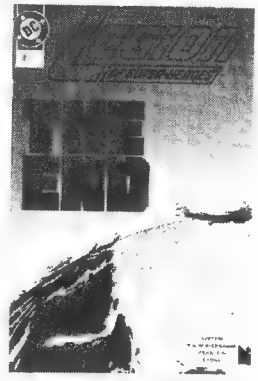
SPECIAL OFFER

GUY GARDNER: Issues 1-3 of the JLA's bad boy in his own title now in stock. $1.25 cover price **Only 40p ea**



SPECIAL OFFER

SCARLETT #1: Giant size great first issue for new DC vampire series by Joyner & Wilson. $2.95 coveronly **75p**



SPECIAL OFFER

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES 38: "The End". Special destruction of the Earth issue. $1.75. **Our price 75p**

DC342: **HAWKWORLD ANNUAL**
3 (Eclipso) £0.65
DC346: **THE HECKLER**
1-6 ..... £0.65
DC351: **HELLBLAZER** (mature)
37, 39, 45, 46, 47 .. £1.00
48-50 ..... £0.75
52, 53, 55-57, 59-62 . £0.95
DC391: **JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL - AMERICA**
13, 14, 32, 45, 46, 49 £0.40
50-68 ..... £0.35
71-73 .. special offer £0.30
DC392: **JLA ANNUAL**
5 ..... £0.95
6 ..... £0.65
DC401: **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE**
21, 22, 24-30 ..... £0.40
31-49 ..... £0.30
DC402: **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE ANNUAL**
2, 3 ..... £0.75
DC407: **JUSTICE LEAGUE SPECTACULAR**
1 ..... £0.40
DC408: **JUSTICE LEAGUE QUARTERLY**
3, 5-10 ..... £0.65
DC413: **JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA (1992)**
1-8 ..... £0.40
DC448: **LEGIONNAIRES** polybagged with trading card
1 ..... £0.40
DC451: **L.E.G.I.O.N 90-93**
7 22 23 26 27 ..... £0.80
29 32 33 ..... £0.80
34-49 ..... £0.60
DC452: **L.E.G.I.O.N ANNUAL**
2 ..... £0.95
3 ..... £0.75
DC461: **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**
14, 15, 18, 23-39 ... £0.60
DC462: **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ANNUAL**
2, 3 ..... £0.75
DC473 **LOBO'S BACK**
1-4 (mature) £0.80
DC474: **LOBO: BLAZING CHAIN OF LOVE** (mature)
Oneshot £0.80

DC476: **LOBO INFANTICIDE**
1-4 (mature) £0.80
DC483: **MADAME XANADU**
(M Rogers, B Bolland) £0.40
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(Prestige 3 issue series)
American Secrets 1, 2 £1.25
DC491: **THE MAN OF STEEL** (1986)
6 issue mini re-interpreting Superman by John Byrne
1, 2 ..... £0.50
3, 4 ..... £0.30
5, 6 ..... £0.50
DC495: **MILLEMMIUM**
2-8 ..... £0.30
DC501: **MR MIRACLE**
2-4, 6, 7, 20-28 .... £0.30
DC511: **Mo TREE**
3, 4, 6-9 (very mature) £0.40
DC521: **THE NAZZ**
(Prestige, mature readers)
2-4 ..... £0.75
DC531: **NEW GODS**
1-8, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28 ..... £0.30
DC541: **NEW TITANS**
71, 72, 75, 79, 80 .. £0.95
81-96 ..... £0.75
DC542: **NEW TITANS ANNUAL**
8 ..... £0.65
DC571: **PSYCHO** (prestige)
2, 3 ..... £0.70
DC575: **PEACEMAKER**
(4 issue mini series)
1-4 ..... £0.30
DC577: **PHANTOM STRANGER** (1987 mini)
1-4 ..... £0.30
DC581: **THE QUESTION QUARTERLY**
2, 4, 5 ..... £0.65
DC582: **POWER OF THE ATOM** (1988)
2, 4 ..... £0.25
DC591: **RAGMAN**
(8 issue series)
1-8 ..... £0.40
DC594: **THE RAY**
(Six issue mini-series)
1-4 (Quesada art) .. £0.50
DC601: **ROBIN**
(5 issue mini series)
3, 4, 5 ..... £0.30

DC602: **ROBIN TWO: THE JOKER'S WILD**
1-4 ..... £0.50
DC604: **ROBIN ANNUAL**
1 (Eclipso) £0.65
DC605: **ROBIN THREE: CRY OF THE HUNTRESS**
(6 issue mini series)
1-6 ..... £0.45
DC606: **ROBIN 3000**
1, 2 (prestige) £1.75
DC610: **ROBIN THREE**
(Collectors edition, special covers, polybagged)
1-5 ..... £1.00
DC611: **THE SANDMAN**
32-45 (mature) £0.80
DC612: **SANDMAN SPECIAL (mature)**
1 ..... £0.95
DC613: **SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE**
1, 2 (mature) £0.80
DC615: **SCARLETT**
1, 2, 3, 4 ..... £0.75
DC631: **SHADE THE CHANGING MAN**
19-31 (mature) £0.80
DC635: **SHOWCASE '93**
1 ..... £0.75
DC640: **THE SHADOW**
(Sienkiewicz 1987, mature)
1, 4, 5, 6 ..... £0.50
DC644: **SHADO** (prestige)
1-4 ..... £0.65
DC645: **SKULL & BONES**
1-3 (prestige) £0.60
DC661: **STARMAN**
1 2 25 29 30 32 33 .. £0.30
34-36, 39-45 ..... £0.30
DC671: **STAR TREK**
18, 19, 21, 23, 25-45 £0.75
DC673: **STAR TREK ANNUAL**
3 ..... £0.65
DC701: **STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION**
21, 24-43 ..... £0.75
DC651: **THE SPECTRE** (1993)
1-6 ..... £0.75
DC657: **STANLEY & HIS MONSTER**
1-4 ..... £0.30
DC705: **STAR TREK VI MOVIE SPECIAL**
Oneshot £0.75

DC711: **SUICIDE SQUAD**
2-5 7-10 13-15 18 ... £0.35
19 40 46-56 58-66 .. £0.35
DC721: **SUPERMAN**
17-19 22 27 48 49 .. £0.35
51-73 77 ..... £0.35
DC722: **SUPERMAN ANNUAL**
3 ..... £0.95
4 (Eclipso) £0.65
DC723: **SUPERMAN SPECIAL** Oneshot
(Simonson) £0.60
DC727: **SUPERMAN GALLERY** £0.95
DC731: **SUPERMAN - THE MAN OF STEEL**
1 ..... £0.75
2-16 ..... £0.35
21 ..... £0.30
DC733: **MAN OF STEEL ANNUAL**
1 (Eclipso) £0.65
DC639: **SILVER AGE CLASSICS**
DC639A GL / GA 76 (Neal Adams) £0.35
DC639B: SHOWCASE 4 (Flash) £0.35
DC639C: SHOWCASE 22 (first Green Lantern) £0.35
DC639D: DETECTIVE 327 (new-look Batman) .. £0.35
DC639E: HOUSE OF SECRETS 92 (Swamp Thing) £0.35
DC639F: SUGAR & SPIKE 99 ..... £0.35
DC639G: ACTION COMICS 252 (Supergirl) £0.35
DC639H: BRAVE & BOLD 28 (1st JLA) £0.35
DC639J: ADVENTURE 247 (1st Legion) ... £0.35
DC741: **SWAMP THING** (mature)
114-124, 126, 127, 128£0.45
DC747: **TEAM TITANS**
DC747A: Killowat .. £0.50
DC747B: Mirage .. £0.50
DC747C: Night Rider £0.50
DC747D: Redwing .. £0.50
DC747E: Terra £0.50
DC747F **TEAM TITANS set**
All 5 first issues £1.95
DC747: **TEAM TITANS**
2-7 ..... £0.75
DC755: **TITANS SELL OUT SPECIAL (1992)**
One-shot £0.65
DC758: **PETER CANNON: THUNDERBOLT**
1-9 ..... £0.30
DC759: **TIMBERWOLF**
1-5 ..... £0.40
DC768: **VALOR**
1-7 ..... £0.40
DC771: **V FOR VENDETTA**
7, 8, 10 ..... £0.35
DC791: **WAR OF THE GODS (mini)**
1-4 ..... £0.30
DC792: **WAR OF THE GODS (set)**
All 4 issues for £0.85
DC797: **WILD DOG**
1, 2 ..... £0.30
DC811: **WONDER WOMAN**
3 5 7-13 16 17 19 ... £0.30
21 22 27-36 38 .... £0.30
49-57 59-73 ..... £0.30
DC812: **WONDER WOMAN DEATHSTROKE SPECIAL**
Oneshot £0.40
DC831: **WORLD OF KRYPTON**
2, 3 ..... £0.30
DC835: **WORLD OF SMALLVILLE**
1-4 ..... £0.30

MARVEL

M1: **AVENGERS**
235, 296, 317, 323 .. £0.40
330, 333, 335-359 .. £0.40
M10: **AVENGERS WEST COAST**
58, 79-91 ..... £0.40
M21: **CAPTAIN AMERICA**
361-363 367 382 386 £0.35
389-403, 406-412 ... £0.35
M30: **DAREDEVIL**
300 ..... £0.65
289, 301-312 ..... £0.35
M35: **THE DRAFT**
1 ..... £0.30
M36: **DP7**
1 ..... £0.20
M45: **EXCALIBUR**
18, 19 ..... £0.30
M49: **FALLEN ANGELS**
5 ..... £0.25
M50: **FANTASTIC FOUR**
361-370, 372, 373 . £0.35
M70: **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY**
15, 16, 21-24, 26-33 £0.35
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The Man of Platinum

NOT surprisingly, the selling price for the bagged platinum edition of **Superman** 75 has become a major talking point. Strictly limited to one per outlet, even UK distributors Titan and Diamond allegedly only received one copy each, it won't be so prevalent as the platinum edition of **Spider-Man #1**.

So far prices have varied from £175 to £350 in the UK and a peak of $350 in America, where copies are still obtainable for as little as $125-200.

But given recent mentions to the poor quality of polybags actually damaging comics, will this current hot title become the most expensive bag of dust in five years?

No thanks to the movie

BATMAN has not been the best of speculative buys over the last few years; prices that rose sharply during the *Death in the Family* and **Batman: The Movie** booms soon plummeted as fans found other titles to invest in.

But now, after a disappointingly poor reaction to **Batman Returns**, dealers and retailers are finding that the *Knightfall* series running through the Bat-family of books is really getting the fans worked up.

The comics world is now bracing itself for the release of **Batman** 500, which looks set to earn DC its third number 1 spot this year in the top 50 selling comics.

Dark Knight investments

WHILE Batman's new issues are selling better than ever thanks to all the hype, the back issue prices of recent issues are rising sky high and even the shrewd mart dealers have been caught by this series.

Very few copies of the first four parts of Knightfall are available and **Sword of Azrael** which had Hot written all over it when it first came out, yet didn't really come alive until *Knightfall* started, is rocketing. Issue 1 sells for up to £10 when you can find it, while 2, 3 & 4 are all around the £5 mark.

Bane's first appearance in the Batman Special **The Vengeance of Bane** sat for a while in cheap bins around the country, but is now considered the country's hottest Batbook, with some dealers asking as much as £15 for something which had little impact on fans on its first release.

Hot DCs?

DESPITE most distributed DC comics of the last few years remaining available at low prices through suppliers like *The Comics Warehouse*, a number of DCs are still gaining in value. **Hellblazer** has suddenly become popular again, with all issues back to their 1989 peak prices and set to increase. Expect issue 1 to break the £10 barrier. Garth Ennis's more recent issues have also continued to rise and most of his run are already at least 50% above cover price.

Animal Man has come a long way since Grant Morrison left the book (#26) in a position where you wouldn't have envied anyone the task of sorting it out. Jamie Delano took over scripting with issue 51, and his first two issues have now become relatively scarce.

The Silver Age strikes back

PERHAPS it's a backlash to the poor state of the industry right now, but silver age titles are making a rapid comeback, with US dealers regularly paying the cost of a trans-Atlantic flight, loaded down with comics, to sell at UK marts.

At the recent Manchester comic mart, no less than *three* copies of the 1961 landmark comic **Fantastic Four #1** sold within ten minutes... much to the glee of *Incognito*'s Dave Finn who sold two of them.

Congratulations are also due to Incognito for successfully negotiating a sale of his **Amazing Spider-Man** 1 very fine plus for a surprisingly high £4,500. A near mint copy is priced £3,850 in the recently released UK price guide, and according to the US Overstreet guide, a very fine copy has a top value of only £3,900. But then, these guides are meant to reflect averages, not precise values. So for as many people selling below guide, there must be those selling above to make any kind of guide mid-point.

Comics and CDs in Bristol also report an increase in Golden and Silver age interest. They successfully sold their fair condition **Superman 1** for £3,000 through an ad in this very publication.

Image deteriorating?

IMAGINE putting a talented crew of creators together, with nobody to wield a big stick over them, no threats of dismissal over missed deadlines, no withholding of royalties against delivery of future work. Instead a crowd of ego-driven individuals, who want to make it for themselves and become the bosses of editors and production folk.

It's happened in films, music, magazines and television. Invariably with the same end product. With no common enemy (editor, publisher, accountant, etc), the ego stops being a driving force and starts to get in the way of common sense. Especially for team members less ego-led.

It could happen to anybody, it has, it will again, and gossip continues to circulate that only Jim Lee's vision is, allegedly, holding Image together. Stroman and Silvestri are rumoured to be fed up

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with a certain loud-mouthed founder, while Todd McFarlane is said to be expressing an interest in more than just a character cross-over with Neal Adams' Continuity.

Youth, experience and talent have little to do with it. In a creative world without business constraints, tempers can fray and egos be bruised easily.

Defiant about Valiant

VALIANT comics continue to be an enigma (no plug, shop gone). Retailers continue to report that new (import) copies are slow moving and in little demand, with such *hot* titles as **Turok #1** still in many shops at cover price. But back issues continue to escalate in value, often being bought and sold by dealers and never even getting into fans' hands.

The latest group of hot Valiant back issues (probably destined for America where they are even hotter) are; **Rai** #3 and 4, which are reported to have the lowest print run of any Valiant title, at little over 10,000 print runs. Both books are changing hands for a minimum of £60 and rising.

Archer and Armstrong 2 features the second "Valiant age" appearance of **Turok** and regularly sells for £5 plus, while issue 8 (which creates filing nightmares by also being issue 8 of **Eternal Warrior**) introduces *Ivar*, brother to *Aram* and *Gilad*. It currently sells for around the £4 mark, while issue 9 featuring the first modern *Ivar* seems to be in a lot shorter supply.

X-O Manowar 13 and 14, the Turok-Bart Sears issues, continue to increase in price, with issue 13 already passing the £5 mark.

Eternal Warrior 6 and 7 are both Barry Windsor-Smith issues and lean on *Master D'Arque* heavily. Despite the fact that nothing of any note happens, it does spotlight Geoff, the Necromancer who is getting his own series.

Solar 14 and 15 feature Fred Bender (Doctor Eclipse), with issue 14 ranging in price from £9.50 to £17.95 but few selling at the high end. Issue 23, where Solar splits into two beings to decrease his power, is the unofficial pre-prologue to the forthcoming **Deathmate** cross-over and will undoubtedly spiral towards a ludicrous price in a matter of weeks especially now that rumours begin to circulate over a second **Solar** title.

With the current investment market still thriving on a false premise, where record sales prices become the average value, publishers gladly add fuel to the speculation, knowing it will boost their print runs. Will any new Valiant character's first appearance *not* be considered hot, no matter who writes or draws it?

Enter the card sharps

THE general feeling about **Turok #1** in America is that is was grossly over-ordered (as reported in the Diamond US and Titan UK order charts in **Comics International 30**, where **Turok** came in 6th in America and 49th in Britain).

One interesting theory is that trading card dealers, alerted to the comics market through the card-comics overlap, have started bulk buying premium first issues recognising a trend similar to that with enhanced cards. But the big difference is that they're used to paying up front for cards, whereas they receive credit from comics wholesalers.

This, apparently, led to huge speculation on **Turok** because of the credit terms, but when the bills were due, massive dumping took place to cover the costs.

British dealers can pat themselves on the back for not being as greedy during this summer of overkill.

Avengers Reassemble

MARVEL's real answer to **The Justice League of America**, **The Avengers** is beginning to regain its stride. Sales on new and back issues are up in all areas of the country, and helping Bob Harras establish himself as one of Marvel's better writers.

Scam Update

FAST becoming a regular feature of *Movers*, here's the latest scam being pulled through the ever-hassled comics retail trade.

Several shops have received "Pre-Court Notices" from solicitors Courtney Brown on behalf of United Office Suppliers Ltd informing the shop owner that if the debt is not paid immediately, court action will be taken.

What's the scam? There is no such solicitor as the PO Box-hiding Courtney Brown; United Office Suppliers doesn't appear to exist; and retailers who keep accurate records have quickly discovered (not too surprisingly) that they don't have such bills outstanding.

But "Courtney Brown" have been thorough. Their Pre-Court Notices give detailed dates and amounts of transactions and include relevant phone numbers (for the victim).

With a now-defunct comics distributor having issued similar letters only a few years ago, for stock not ordered, not delivered, or -- worse -- not even published, the moral to retailers is obvious. Maintain accurate book-keeping.

Several were panicked into paying last time round, so let's not get caught twice!

Casualty update

BEREFT of decent newsstand distribution for comics, Scotland has always had a need for specialist retailers and mail order companies.

Sadly, two of its retail suppliers appear to have closed down. Both *Deadhead Comics* of Edinburgh and *Graffix Lit* of Stirling disappeared without trace last month.

Mutant problems?

ARE the X-books in trouble? Adam Kubert is only inking the first few **X-Men 2099** before moving over to pencilling and inking **Wolverine.**

While during May, Marvel had a real struggle to get its mutant titles to the shops. **Cable** 2 shipped no less than 4 weeks late, **Uncanny X-Men** was expected 3 weeks after its announced shipping date, and all other X-titles, with the exception of the reprint **X-Men Classics** were up to two weeks late.

Knightfall in the media

WHILE the British press appears to have had enough comics coverage over the death of Superman, the American news media has been treating the current *Knightfall* story-line as a major news item,

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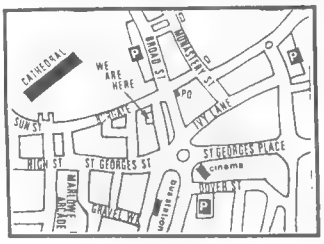

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leading to prices rocketing on key back issues of **Batman, Detective** and the **Azrael** and **Bane** specials.

CNN and MTV are among the tv channels to have picked up on the story, which will doubtless lead to the others soon following suit.

Dynamic TV Comics

CROYDON-based *Dynamic Comics* is to be featured in a forthcoming tv episode of **The Bill**. Filming took place there on June 16, involving a scene where yoofs use the comic shop to split up their ill-gotten gains from bag snatching.

Profitable Image

DESPITE rumours about huge quantities of unsold Image titles through distributors over-ordering, dealers are still charging high prices and getting them, especially for titles with the *Image 0* coupons.

Spawn 4 heads the charts for expensive coupon book, and also features the first appearance of The Violator (soon to appear in his own title). Dealers have been snapping up copies at £5 a time from each other and selling them on for £10.

Cyberforce 1 is also another which is beginning to command high premiums, selling steady at £4 and £5, it is one of the few titles that are genuinely competing with Spawn as a speculative investment.

Shadowhawk 1 with its black and silver cover is now as high as £10, but there are a lot of these in this country. Newer dealers should not always trust **Wizard**, which can only reflect US demand, if that.

But it is **Youngblood** 1 which has many fans scratching their heads. Some dealers are asking as much as £8 for the comics, despite it being universally panned.

Ones to watch include the visually impressive **Stormwatch** by newcomer Scott Clark; the out-of-place **Maxx**, which doesn't really fit into kind of Image continuity, while **Bloodstrike** 1 has been selling briskly and dealers could soon be charging a premium for it.

Cap Crazy

CALL them *pogz* (the Eclipse line), or *hero caps* (the Marvel Spider-Man line) or giant tiddlywinks, America's latest comics-related trend is for milk bottle tops.

It began in Hawaii as a game kids would play. Certain milk bottles had circular cardboard tops, blank on one side but with comics character faces printed on the reverse.

The idea was to stack up your pile of caps, your opponent would then skim a special cap (the "slammer") at the pile. As they fell, those landing one way up he would keep while you would win the rest. The aim of winning was to increase your collection, naturally, in the attempt to acquire a full set.

In the wake of the popularity of trading cards, the caps fad has now made it over to mainland America, with Skybox having already introduced their own line, *Sky-caps* while the latest (polybagged) **Comic Book Collector** magazine has the Man/Men of Steel Superman set as a giveaway, and Marvel is soliciting for its own range.

The only problem for the owners of the images reproduced on the caps is that many had been licensed for Hawaii only, and new contracts

are quickly being drawn up to cover the huge mainland export market Honolulu has now discovered.

A morality tale

EARLY in June, a mart dealer found a customer happy to buy his **Platinum Superman #75** for £150. Seeing credit cards were accepted, the collector offers his card in payment, but the dealer then commented that would cost another £8 on top. The collector, disgusted, turned away and the sale was lost.

Fair enough, retailers do lose approximately 4% of selling price to credit card companies but, when the cost price is zero, as in the case of this trade giveaway, aren't some people being just a little too greedy?

Not to be continued

WHILE Marvel prepare for the return of Magneto to the X-Men and groom The Avengers for their 30th anniversary cross-over with the mutants, one former writer of Earth's Mightiest Heroes will look at the series with a certain amount of interest.

Roger Stern, now winning plaudits for his excellent **Action Comics** was the man who brought us the first 3 issues of the **Avengers vs X-Men** mini-series, back in 1988. The new trade paperback of the four issue mini has again raised the question of what happened to Roger Stern and artist Marc Silvestri conspicuous by their absence from the final issue.

Stern allegedly intended to end the series with the actual death of Magneto, in a final desperate selfless act to save the life of a human. Chris Claremont at the time supported Stern's storyline, but relatively new editor in chief Tom DeFalco vetoed the move, saying that the death of such a major character was wasted in a mini series.

Stern stuck to his guns and with just over a week to go till deadline, Defalco took over the reigns of the book, and aided by artist Keith Pollard finished the series his way.

This resulted in Stern leaving Marvel, vowing never to return, while Marc Silvestri who supported Stern throughout was offered **The Uncanny X-Men**.

Explain it we cannot

COMICS are a funny thing, especially when you realise that at a recent mart a copy of Marvel's 1969 **Tower of Shadows** 1 (with classic Steranko artwork) was bought for just 25p and at the same mart a copy of the same company's **Ren and Stimpy** 1 from last year sold for a preposterous £25.

Hologram hike

MARVEL'S PR folk recently sent a promotional trading card size visual of the hologram cover of X-Factor 92 to the comics press and distributors.

When asked, some of the country's leading card specialists were unaware of its value, but one offered an ITMite £60 for it, without even seeing it.

Apparently the Havok card, with some of the best holographic effects yet produced, is an incredibly rare item, having a very low print run and being much smaller than the version which will finally appear, stuck down on the comic's cover.

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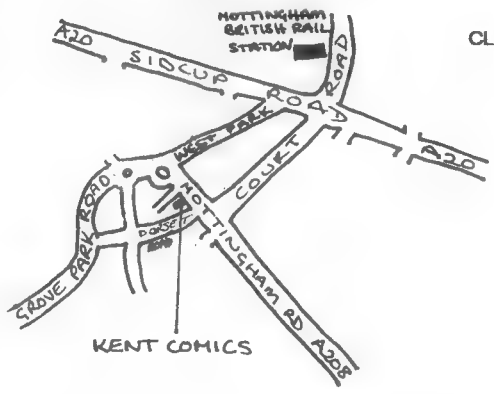

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One of the advantages of having been involved in comics for 27 years (23 of them in publishing) is that you tend to know most of the creators you are writing about.

Outside of the embarrassment this can create when you feel obliged to print scathing criticism, it can result in surprising favours. This issue's special thank you goes to artist Cam Kennedy who, upon discovering what this issue's cover story would be, offered to create an original colour cover - before even DC themselves had received any promotional work on the title!

In fact, the cover was possibly the last UK-based job out of Cam who has now moved to America for a year, situating himself within reach of his ***Star Wars*** *publisher, Dark Horse.*

Derek G. Skinn / Editor

Kevin Hearns, 8 Farraline Rd Watford, WD1 8DQ

Can anybody help me find a copy of **Shadowman 16**, if it really exists. In my quest for the title at Sunday 23rd May's comic mart, I hunted high and low, leaving no stone left. But alas, no dealer could unearth one, and all the copies had disappeared from comic shops some time before.

So the "first appearance" nightmare had struck again. Some joker, in a suit, calling himself **Dr Mirage** was the culprit behind the disappearing comic. Am I going to be forever plagued by this comics disease of our times? I lose sleep wondering who is going to appear next with every man and his dog seeming to be getting their own comic. Image are not helping matters either, with their countless #1s.

But now I've had enough of big superheroes with massive guns, give me Pip the Troll or Mr Armstrong any time to help lighten up the day.

Valiant tell me that I have an 8 million to one chance of winning their serial number contest, almost the same chance as finding a copy of **Shadowman 16** at cover price in the foreseeable future, so maybe I'll take up fishing or something less exhausting.

Sadly, the bane of every regular reader is the key issue *which, thanks to publisher and distributor hard-sell gets snapped up in bulk by would-be investors before regular readers see a copy.*

Hard sell is fine if it's your job, higher profits mean stronger job security. Speculators can browse and chose not buy the titles which don't live up to promises, but retailers can no longer risk believing hard-sell when they're unable to return the flops.

You, Kevin, and other readers are victims of the system. But like all trends, it is sure to pass, leaving it to those who care about the product to pick up the pieces. (DGS)

Phil Hall, 3 Ashfield Road, Wellingborough NN8 3JG

In response to Adrian Shelley and David Roy (*Mediafile* and *Letters*, **Comics International 31**): To Adrian, despite your belief, snuff movies do exist. I had the misfortune of seeing one a few years ago, and there is little that leaves you to believe it's only special effects. They are not well produced cinematic treats, they are home videos featuring on-screen murder.

Whether you want to believe that these films exist or not, is your choice, but don't make statements based on your lack of awareness. Certainly there were no snuff movies on sale at the raided Birmingham mart, I should know, I was there.

I also know the shop owner who had goods seized. What were on sale however were films which have been deemed as "video nasties". As the law stands at present, it is an offense to sell such, therefore the dealer responsible has to face the consequences. But please don't preach that "Raids such as these always occur from time to time, they are an annoyance and should be tolerated and nothing more."

Try telling that to the retailers who have had stock confiscated by over-zealous customs officials, retailers who have had to sweat it out while Customs and Excise sift through boxes of books, hoping to spot something to justify their action but are more likely to spot little more than an abundance of scantily clad, buxom super heroines.

Think also of the adverse press that not just the victim has to face, but the whole industry. Think of the abuse of civil rights that is suffered by victims of Customs and Excise. Samples of these books have been passed by their own people before being imported in bulk but now the dealer has to gamble with his livelihood because the Customs man will want to exonerate their mishandling.

Titan and Diamond cannot be expected to be the "moral watchdogs" of the industry, they have no other reason for not bringing adult comics into this country than fear of prosecution or at least constant scrutiny and delays though HM Customs. I believe Sarah Bolesworth's reference in *Mediafile* was addressed to those dealers and retailers who chose to gamble by directly ordering from the States.

Raids are not to be tolerated, or treated as an annoyance, regardless of whether you are for or against censorship and tighter anti-obscenity laws, unfortunately though, we don't live in as fair a society as we would like to believe. But if we give up and don't campaign in some way, we might as well all start reading **The Beano** again.

Adrian Shelley comes across as a little naive and misguided, not acknowledging the existence of snuff movies whereas David Roy by his published definition of such has obviously seen several. Perhaps the two of you could be put in a room together so that it can be videoed for posterity, a real video nasty!

G Cartwright, 27 Wensleydale, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear

I hope that some of your readers can help me. I have been collecting comics for many years now and have recently started to branch out into comic related merchandise, T-shirts, caps, badges etc.

A few weeks ago I came across a number of Batman ties being sold through a C&A store, which I purchased. This started a search of the likely stores in my area to find if this was just a one-off, what with the Batman film hype, or whether other characters existed.

Alas my search proved fruitless, hence my plea. Does anyone know of a store, fashion clothing outlet or a comics specialist that deals with this garment, as I would very much like to obtain other characters.

Any one who can help should write direct to the above. (DGS)

David Jackson, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

Comics International 30 (Phil Hall, *Comment*), raised the issue of "Concept Copyrights" (sic), expressing an understandable and not unique concern that certain concepts now in print bear a semblance to ideas, themes or proposals previously submitted by 'unknowns' or others not credited in print subsequently.

The Writers' & Artists' Yearbook published by A&C Black, annually updates information on UK and international copyright and is also available in the reference section of public libraries. The general principals, relevant to the above, can be summarised thus:

Under UK law (all countries have to be taken on an individual basis), copyright does not protect ideas or themes, however original, but rather the material form in which the idea is expressed; nor does it protect 'titles' (which are too short to be considered a 'work'); similarly, single invented words such as "Exxon" can not be afforded protection by copyright; eg Exxon Corporation v Exxon Insurance etc Ltd 1982 R.P.C. 69.

However, if an existing title is adopted and used to mislead or cause confusion, action can be brought using legal remedy separate from copyright law.

Copyright in a work is automatically granted as soon as the page is written, the sketch drawn; no legal formality, 'copyright reserved' or notice is required, the work does not need to be printed or published.

Registration at Stationers Hall or depositing in a sealed envelope in a bank is not required for copyright protection, however, in an infringement action, this may provide proof as to the date of creation of the work.

A "slavish copy" of a previously existing work can not be afforded copyright (ie, it is not 'original').

Copying is proved by showing substantial similarities between the original and the alleged copy, plus an opportunity to copy.

If an idea is reproduced in an entirely different form, this is not an infringement of copyright. However, ideas can be afforded legal protection under the law of confidence; eg *Opportunity Knocks and Fraser v Thames Television Ltd 1984 Q.B. 44.*

As Phil Hall's **Comment** concedes, no doubt there could well be instances of genuine 'co-incidence'; however, in cases where some breach of confidence is suspected, there is legal precedent for recourse to the 'law of confidence'.

Andrew Harvey, Leytonstone, London E11

The **Comics International** *Comment* section certainly does appear to have rekindled the fires of discussion within the comics fraternity. I always find it interesting that you seem to be able to print a broad cross section of views, ranging from the incisive and stimulating to the inane and bizarre. Where do you find some of these people?

Your own non-partisan stance of publishing opinions without any *killer replies* (so popular in earlier magazines and fanzines) leaves things open for readers to follow up on, and I often find it near-irresistible to write in myself.

The latest *Comment* (#31) had several stirring/irritating views, one of which I could not ignore.

Alan J. Porter mathematically assesses the costs for mart dealers versus the costs for shop-owners and amazingly enough "proves" that mart dealer overheads are six times those of shops. Lies, damn lies and statistics time?

He asserts that a mart dealer only receives two six foot tables for £50, so his square footage cost is over £2.00 a day as opposed to a shop's average of £1,000 for 500 square foot being 33p a day.

A truly stunning argument there, Alan. So much for mathematics being a precise science, it's only as precise as the user.

Without wanting to get into the minutiae of wall space (cubic footage anybody?), what about walking space? Of the 500 square foot an average shop has, how much is actual selling space as opposed to gangways? A third? A quarter? Or does Alan believe that if he had a shop he could use all 500 square foot for display, as he does with his two six-foot tables.

Does advertising factor into this anywhere? Mart organisers pay the costs and build such into table fees. Shop owners have to pay their own advertising, so this should be included in the figures.

If Alan seriously believes marts are more expensive, why is he still dealing instead of opening a shop? Ah, the fun of controversy.

THIS SUMMER 2000 AD GETS OFFENSIVE!

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This is **BIG DAVE,** Manchester's hardest man. He was supposed to tell you about **2000 AD's** scrotnig **Summer Offensive,** featuring sizzling New Thrills **MANIAC 5, SLAUGHTERBOWL** and **REALLY AND TRULY** -not to mention the brand new 12-part **Judge Dredd** mega-epic *Inferno* from Grant Morrison and Carlos Ezquerra. He was supposed to tell you that he'll be doing his bit for Blighty in the pages of **2000 AD** from Prog 842 onwards, alongside Mark Millar, John Smith, Rian Hughes, Steve Parkhouse and more. But he thinks you called him a poof. So now you've had it.

THE 2000AD SUMMER OFFENSIVE - ON SALE 26TH JUNE, PRICE 60P

Tharg wishes to state that the views expressed by Big Dave are not necessarily shared by The Mighty One himself or, indeed, any of his droids.

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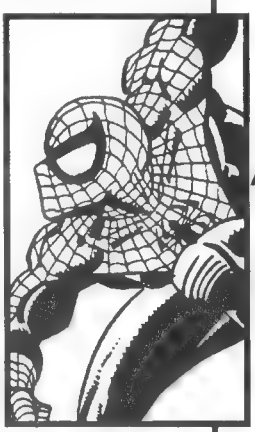

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Clearance sale: collection of Marvel, DC and independents; annuals, giants and mini-series. Whatever your taste - mutants, superheroes, horror or vigilantes, you'll find something to your liking. All well below market prices. SAE for details to: S Martins, 9 Ashley Park, St Andrews, Bristol BS6 5DX.

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Entire private collection for sale, Marvel, DC independents, annuals and limited series. Including many recent issues. All well below market prices. First come, first served. For list, send SAE to: M Dunn, 157 Clittaford Road, Southway, Plymouth, Devon PL6 6HU.

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For sale: 2,000+ comics. Mostly vfn-nm, from 10p to 75p. Marvel, DC and independents. From 1960s to date. Send A4 (large) SAE with 36p stamp to: G Rocco, 8 Cookson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham NG4 4GA or telephone: 0602 618453, after 8pm.

For sale: British Marvel comics. Very large collection, 1970-1984. Mainly complete title sets in very good condition. Almost all titles available, including titles containing British stories and artwork. Contact: Stephen Vitoria (any time) on: 0442 255941.

Private sale: (2000 less) comics and cards (2,000 less), plus lots of comics-related merchandise. As an incentive, anyone sending for my list will get something free. SAE to: Paul A Yee, 37 Langford Place, Victoria Park, Manchester M14 5QG.

The sale continues. It took ages to drop all my prices in the computer and so, even though the new **Price Guide** is out, I can't be bothered to put the prices back up again. Thousands of comics at 25-40% below 1992 prices. Just arrived — another 2,00 back issues, straight on to the list at two thirds of the 1992 **Guide** price. Loads of bargains, including "hot" comics: Image, Valiant, **Death** 1 (signed) £9.50; **Sandman** 50 (signed) £11.50; **UNICEF Trial of Venom** £17.50. For strictly graded, 50-page catalogue, send large 24p SAE to: AMJ Comics (sale list 2), 64 Invicta Road, Margate, Kent CT9 3SJ or tel: 0843 225485 any time. CoBRA member (all goods despatched within 8 days).

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Advertisers are reminded that *Wanted* advertisements must be no longer than 50 words, and that single private ads only can be published free of charge.

Wanted: **Rangers 14 - Boy Commandos** and **Blue Beetle** 20; all published 1943. Please contact Ray Hopkins, 65 Manby Road, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6HJ.

Comics: **Magnus** 12, **Solar** 10 (1st print). Cards: Marvel Universe 1 Holograms, Turok promo. Will exchange comics for: *X-cutioners* storyline with cards. Exchange cards for Marvel Universe 3, Wolverine 2, Spider-Man 30th anniversary, Punisher 2, Youngblood. Write, with exchange combination required and item offered to: John Brown, 75 Larch Crescent, Hayes, Middx UB4 9DU.

Wanted: Any trading cards that came with 1993 Marvel annuals. I will pay 50p for each card and 20p postage for each envelope received; or send £2 for each annual with card. Please contact Stephen Wilson on 0455 822044 with details.

Wanted: **Rai** 0-7, **Magnus** 1-21, **Solar** 1-14, **Shadowman** 1-10, **X-O** 1-11, **Archer & Armstrong** 0-10, **Eternal Warrior** 1-9, **Unity** set (of 18 issues). Please send your lists to: Dave Starkey, 93 Dunkirk Ave, West Bromwich B70 0EX; all letters acknowledged.

Wanted: Any Valiant title, especially **Solar** 1-8. **Shadowman** 1-8, **Magnus** 0-15, **Rai** 0-10, all **Unity, X-O Manowar** 1-11, **Eternal Warrior** 1-9, **Archer & Armstrong** 0-10. Please send your lists to: S Southall, Great Bridge, Tipton, W Midlands DY4 7JA. All lists replied to, sensible prices please, as I am a collector, not a dealer.

Wanted: **Creepy** 46 60 61 64 66; **Eerie** 50 51; **Vampirella** 3 11, Special 1. Plus early **TV Action** and **Misty**. Always interested in 1960s and 1970s undergrounds. Contact David Roach 0222 492726, evenings only.

Wanted: Early **Mondo** mags, issues 1-10 (1991-1992), plus issue 3 of present run. Buy or exchange for DC comics. Del Rooney, (6/4) 30 Petershill Court, Glasgow G21 4QD.

Wanted: Valiant material (comics, trading cards, etc.) Will exchange for **2000AD** (comics, original artwork), Image material (comics, trading cards). Fraser Morton, 42 Mountain View Drive, Newry BT35 6DW.

Wanted: **Star Wars** US Marvel comics, plus Star Wars toys. Also any **Dandy, Beano, Rupert** annuals. Dave: 081 942 6516.

Wanted: **Tom Puss Comics** (Birn Brothers), will pay £150; **Panda Comics** (Birn Brothers) £100; **Tom Puss in Rhymeland** £100; **Jack and Jill All Colour Gift Books** (Annette Mills) £40. Contact: Piet Koudenburg, Cortenhoeve 14, 2411 JM Bodegraven, NL The Netherlands.

Wanted: British original art from the following comics: **Countdown** (*UFO, Doctor Who* and *Countdown*) and **Joe 90** (*Star Trek* and *Land of the Giants*). Also any artwork by either Frank Bellamy or Neal Adams. Contact Jeff Haythorpe on 081 291 0218.

Wanted: Issue #2 of **2000 AD**, in any condition. Also required: any secondhand Judge Dredd board games or computer games, very good price paid for any of these items. Call Justin on: 081 886 6933.

Wanted: **Amazing Heroes** 114, **Mystery in Space** 54 58 66, 1950s **Strange Adventures**, Bob Powell's **The Avenger** (ME), **Comicbook Marketplace** 1 2 3 20, **Seekers of Tomorrow** by Sam Moskowitz, **Paperbacks USA** by Piet Schreuder. Contact: Jim Kealy, 37 Ramilles Road, Mill Hill, London NW7 4LY.

Wanted: Marvel Universe series one Holograms, Right Side of the Shield (Doomsday) and X-Men series two Wolverine 3-D card. Urgently needed to finish sets. Will exchange for other cards or pay cash. Telephone Kevin 081 599 9306.

Wanted: 1960s **Mutiny on the Bounty** comic from the film (MGM), Marlon Brando photo cover, published by Gold Key. Contact Robert Stokoe on 0661 834623 (evenings).

Wanted: For personal collection, **She-Hulk** 24, **Transformers** 76, **Transformers: Headmasters** 1. Also Marvel UK **Transformers** 3 and 173, **Doctor Who Magazine** 135 173, **Dragon's Claws** 5 and **The Life and Times of Death's Head** trade paperback. Contact: J Price, 21 The Crescent, Chartham, Canterbury, CT4 7PX.

Wanted: For collection, Wolverine 3-D (H5) from the X-Men II set of trading cards. Contact Mark on: 0952 506036 (after 6pm).

Wanted: English 1950s space, horror, crime, superhero, jungle, western comics, **Classics Illustrated, Mystery in Space, Captain Marvel Adventures, Whiz, Master, Marvelman, Space Pic Libs, Thriller Pic Libs, Star Rocket Spaceman, Space Cadet, Space Adventures, Lion** 39 40 43 45 46 48 49 54 49 60 62 63 66-71, (1952/1953), and similar English material. Mike Morley, 5 Crompton Avenue, Sprotboro Road, Doncaster, South Yorks DN5 8ED.

Wanted: Marvel UK **Transformers** 18-21, 82, Collected Comics 11, Marvel US **Transformers** 4, **Transformers Universe** 1 2. All in f-nm. Will pay 30p-£1.50 each. Contact: Peter Hodgson, 15 Oriole Road, Scunthorpe, Humberside DN17 1LW.

Wanted: DC Limited Collector's Edition C-23 **House of Mystery, Plop, Not Brand Echh, Comix Book, Spoof, Sgt Fury**. Will exchange for **Spider-Man** 297-301 and others, + **Powerman** 66. I have Marvels to exchange, including **Fantastic Four, X-**comics, **Hulk, Speedball**. John Hill, 25 Forest Rd, Watford, Herts WD2 7QP (0923 679981).

Star Wars, GI Joe, Action Force figures; I have hundreds and will trade two for any superhero figure you have (Mattel, Kenner, Toy Biz, USA. Just send a list of your figures, including address to: Lee Shard, 15 Randall Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2TB.

Wanted: **Sandman** 30 — will exchange for a few comics from: **Superman** — Death, Funeral, **Sandman** 41-45, **Shade** 26 28 29, **Punisher: War Zone** 1-6, **Wolverine** 50, **Cage** 1, **Grendel Warchild** 1. Write to: John, 53 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne NE3 4RX.

Wanted: EC boxed sets — **Frontline Combat & The Haunt of Fear**, any condition considered. Also readable copies of **Creepy** 1-15 and **Eerie** 2-15, plus **Thor/Jim** 117-145 (condition not a priority — I want to read 'em, not horde 'em). Contact: Dave Vanner, 1 Peppercorn Way, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0TT, tel: 0604 702172.

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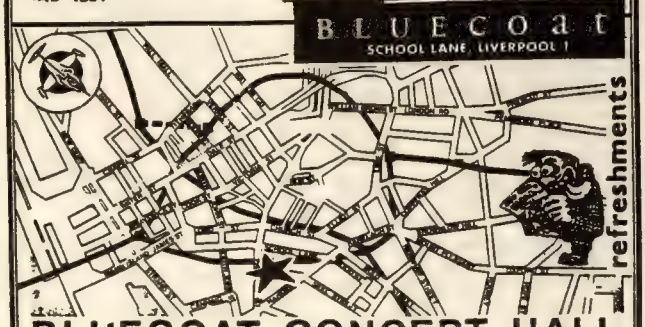

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eVENTS

An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised this issue. A free service for advertisers, the bracketed number after each entry denotes the page this issue where the advertisement with full details appears.

JUNE

19/6 **BRISTOL:** Record Fair & Comic Mart, Transport House, Templemeads (p 14)
19/6 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 30)
26/6 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds (p 30)
26/6 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Concert Hall, Liverpool (p 68)
26/6 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster (p 52)
26/6 **SALISBURY:** Plasm #0 signing at Floppy Tongue, 96 Fisherton Street (p 11)
27/6 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Gladstone Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson St (p 30)
27/6 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 (p 27)
27/6 **LUTON:** Comic & TV/SF Fair, Vauxhall Recreation Centre, Osborne Rd (p 21)

JULY

4/7 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 67)
10/7 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 30)
11/7 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street (p 30)
17/7 **LONDON:** Edmonton Comic Mart, Picketts Lock Leisure Centre. (p 52)
18/7 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 13)
24/7 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 30)
31/7 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, The Hummingbird, Dale End (p 61)
31/7 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Concert Hall, Liverpool (p 68)

AUGUST

1/8 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Gladstone Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson St (p 30)
7/8 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds (p 30)
8/8 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 67)
14/8 **STOKE-ON-TRENT:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Harding Street (p 30)
22/8 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 (p 45)
28/8 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gelding Street (p 30)
29/8 **MILTON KEYNES:** Comic & TV Sci-Fi Fair, Woughton Centre, Rainbow Drive, Leadenhall (p 21)

SEPTEMBER

4/9 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster (p 52)
4/9 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 30)
5/9 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 13)
5/9 **LUTON:** Comic & TV/SF Fair, Vauxhall Recreation Centre, Osborne Rd (p 21)
11/9 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 30)
12/9 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street (p 30)
18/9 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds (p 30)
18/9 **LONDON:** UK Comic Art Convention (2-day weekend event) (p 66)
25/9 **LONDON:** Edmonton Comic Mart, Picketts Lock Leisure Centre. (p 52)
25/9 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 30)

OCTOBER

9/10 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, The Hummingbird, Dale End (p 61)
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10/10 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 67)
16/10 **LONDON:** Edmonton Comic Mart, Picketts Lock Leisure Centre. (p 52)
16/10 **MANCHESTER:** Comic & Card Mart Special, Sachas Hotel, Tibb Street, Piccadilly, Manchester (p 30)
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31/10 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 13)
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NOVEMBER

13/11 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster (p 52)

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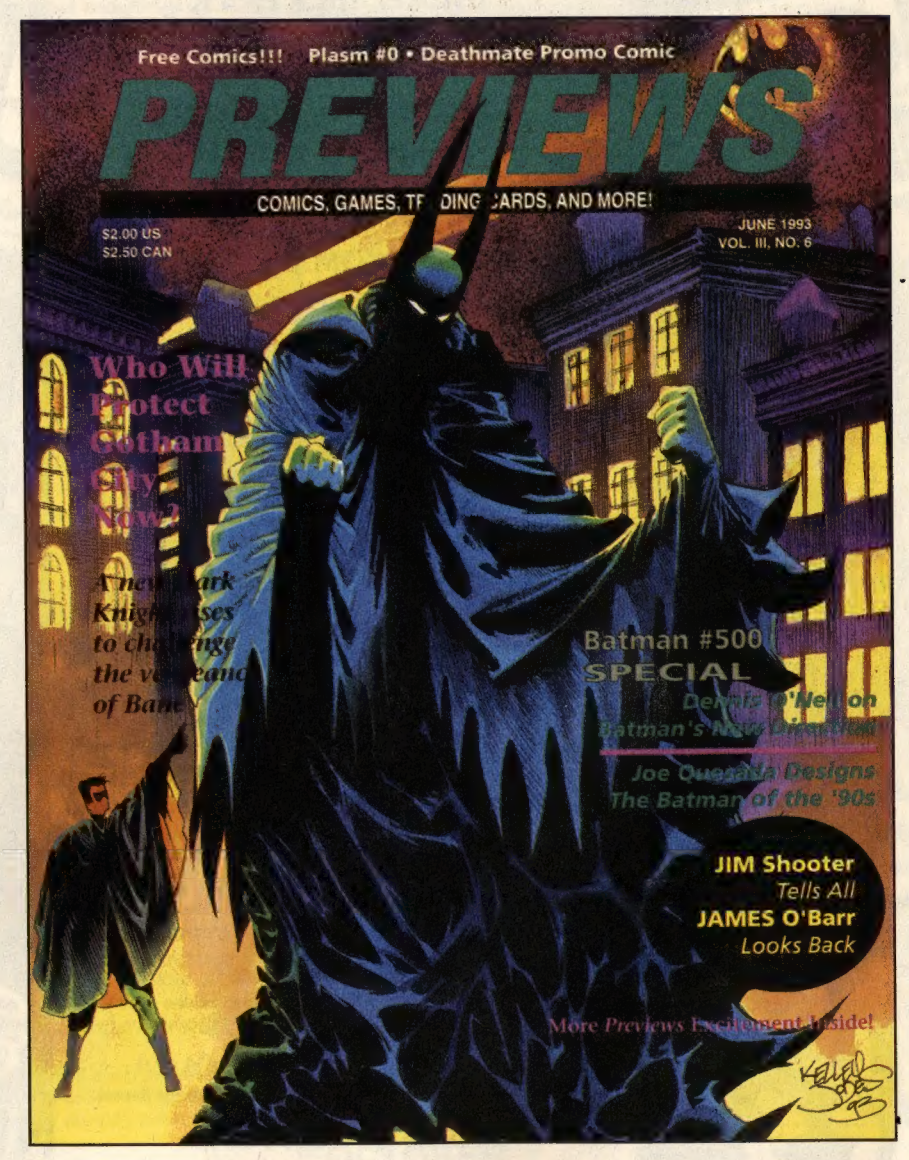
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